



MEDIA RELEASE

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DRAUGHT BEER DECISION PASSES PUB TEST

Beer drinkers around the nation have welcomed news the Federal Government will freeze draught beer excise for the next two years at least, Australian Hotels Association CEO Stephen Ferguson said today.

“This is a win for the millions of men and women who like to go down to their local and have a beer,” Mr Ferguson said.

“There’s no better place to have a beer than down at the local pub – they are the hubs of their communities – we employ more than 300,000 people and a tax freeze helps support these jobs.

“It’s a win for common-sense in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis – every little bit makes a difference.

“It’s great to see the Albanese Government has listened and acted on this unpopular hidden tax.”

Mr Ferguson said the beer excise had not been reviewed in more than 40 years – and Anthony Albanese was the first PM to take action.

“We recognise the need for the government to raise revenue from liquor excise – and we are willing to do our fair share,” he said.

“But the current tax settings with excise going up every six months are keeping people at home - drinking alone rather than getting out and socialising in safe, local venues.

“We would really like to see the Liberal Party get on board now to make sure a beer poured at the bar doesn’t become a luxury item.”

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