



## AUSTRALIAN HOTELS ASSOCIATION

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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March 27, 2007

## HOTELS SUPPORT NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION ON BUTT LITTER

Australian hotels are lending their support to today's National Day of Action on cigarette butt litter.

The initiative involves governments of all levels and stakeholders working together to raise public awareness of the environmental impact of cigarette butt litter.

As part of the National Day of Action, fines will be issued to those caught littering cigarette butts.

In Australia, under various State laws, people who litter with cigarette butts can be fined between \$60 and \$200 (see schedule below).

AHA Director, National Affairs Bill Healey said: "With the introduction of indoor smoking bans across Australia, smokers have been or will be congregating on streets outside pubs – creating a range of new business challenges for pub owners, including cleaning up butt litter.

"The National Day of Action on cigarette butt litter helps drive home to the public that littering is against the law.

"Hotels are urging customers to ensure their cigarette butts are extinguished and then to dispose of them in a bin or ashtray, which will avoid a hefty fine."

Even though 50% of litter items are cigarette butts, they make up only 1% of total volume of litter.

All the same, hotels have come to realise this is a major issue.

"On behalf of hotels, the AHA supports a holistic government approach of educating the public, installing sufficient bins on footpaths and fining people who litter," said Mr Healey.

"It's a far more sensible approach than banning smoking on footpaths, which would only serve to undermine the public's acceptance of indoor smoking bans."

The hotel industry's commitment to proactive measures to minimise butt litter is further underlined by the introduction of a new section on the AHA's national website.

It can be found by logging on to <http://www.aha.org.au/smoking.html>.

### For further information:

**Bill Healey, Director, National Affairs**  
**0419 627 693**

*The Australian Hotels Association (AHA) is the pre-eminent tourism and hospitality industry organisation in Australia. It has in excess of 8000 members operating general and accommodation hotels. It has a National Office and Branches in each State and Territory. It also has a discrete Branch to represent the interests of its Accommodation members that covers four and five-star properties operated by the major chains.*



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STATES	PENALTY		
	LIT BUTT	EXTINGUISHED BUTT	ORDINARY LITTER
ACT	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$600 (10 penalty units)
VIC	\$214.86 (2 penalty units)	\$107.43 (1 penalty unit)	\$214.86 (2 penalty units) for small items and a maximum of (\$2148.60) 20 penalty units for large amounts of litter
NSW	\$200.00 or \$375.00 if deposited from a vehicle*	\$60.00 or \$200.00 if deposited from a vehicle*	\$60.00 for a small item e.g. ATM docket, cigarette packet; \$200 for larger items and depositing litter from car
NT	No differentiation between butt litter and ordinary litter.		\$2000.00
WA	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$1000
TAS	Currently, new litter legislation is being drafted and due in Parliament for discussion in March (in the first sitting). From the draft bill and explanatory memorandums, it seems as though, litter will be divided into three levels depending on the amount of litter deposited. Cigarettes will carry a fine equal to one penalty unit, i.e. \$100.		
SA	There is no legislation regarding general littering in SA, only legislation providing for littering in specific places such as national parks, museums, at special events, etc. In addition, butt litter is not singled out. The fines for littering at the specific places range from \$200.00-\$1250.00. In some instances an expiation fee also applies.		

*(Qld is currently reviewing its cigarette butt litter laws)*