

UNE STARTING
2012 ON A HIGH

Page 2



PETERSONS PRIMED
FOR DAY TO REMEMBER



No butts about it: clubs at odds on outdoor ban



FIRM STANCE: Armidale City Bowling Club senior executive Phil Wheaton supports the State Government's ban on smoking in outdoor dining areas.

THE NSW Government's decision to ban smoking in outdoor dining areas by 2015 has provoked a mixed response from local pubs and clubs.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner announced last week that the Government would ban smoking in public areas such as swimming pools, sports centres, public playgrounds and bus stops later this year.

Mrs Skinner said the extension of the ban was an attempt to reduce the cost of smoking-related illnesses to the NSW economy.

"The distress and cost that smoking inflicts on families, and the burden this imposes on NSW's health system is simply not acceptable," she said.

A ban on smoking in outdoor dining and drinking areas of pubs, clubs and restaurants will not be implemented until 2015 due to the Coalition's election promise to the clubs industry.

Armidale City Bowling Club senior executive Phil Wheaton welcomed the Government's announcement and said the delay on the ban's implementation would make the transition easier for pubs and clubs.

"I think a large percentage of Armidale City Bowling Club members are in favour of continued smoking restrictions," he said. "But we do have about 15 per cent of our members who are smokers that also have requirements and rights, and I think the phasing in over the next three years is sensible."

Mr Wheaton used the changes brought in by pubs and clubs in 2007 to deal with the lemma government's ban on smoking indoors as an example



Twitter:
@stephenejeffery

Stephen Jeffery

of the industry's ability to adapt to changes in tobacco legislation.

White Bull Hotel manager Kirk Vidler was less enthusiastic about the ban, claiming smokers would be inconvenienced regardless of the ban's start date.

"I don't think the time factor's going to be that big of a deal; I think it's just the smoking situation that's a problem. You won't be able to smoke anywhere eventually," he said.

Mr Vidler noted the White Bull's smoking area was used frequently by patrons and believes the legislation is a step in the wrong direction.

"We've already got them outside, they're not allowed to be inside anywhere, so I don't know where else they can go," he said. "I think they should have the right to smoke outdoors where it doesn't affect anybody else in the open area."

NSW councils are permitted to ban smoking in outdoor areas under the Local Government Act. However, an Armidale Dumaresq Council spokesman said there were no plans to extend bans beyond what the Government had proposed at present.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Email: matt.taylor@ruralpress.com

AIRR's National Member of the Year

We specialise in:

- Animal Health
- Agronomy Services
- Fertilizers & Seeds
- Rural Fencing
- Livestock & Pet Supplies



Ben Foster & Jason Litchfield with their award.



Jason Litchfield
Manager



Kellie Litchfield
Office Manager



Matt Foster
Agronomist



Ben Foster
Animal Health



Mick Ward
Produce manager



Phil Radburn
Animal Health

Talk with the team at

GRAZAG

(CREATING AND AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOLUTIONS)

Armidale 12 Ampol St. 6770 3400
Guyra 159-161 Bradley St. 6770 3420

www.grazag.com.au
Drive through service

