Australian Distillers Association

# TERMS OF REFERENCE

## National Advisory Panel – Alcohol Taxation & Alcohol Manufacturers Remission Scheme (AMR)

### BACKGROUND

At the 2026 Australian Distillers Conference, we committed to establishing four National Advisory Panels to support the implementation of the Association's strategic priorities:

- Alcohol Taxation & AMR
- Export Development
- Technical Standards
- Safety & Compliance

These panels will draw on the expertise of members to strengthen evidence based policy development and ensure the Association's advocacy reflects the diversity of Australia's distilling industry.

While each panel will have a different remit and work to different timelines, all four will develop recommendations, policy positions, and implementation roadmaps for Board consideration.

The Alcohol Taxation & AMR Panel is being established as a priority due to the Government's/Australian Taxation Office's review of the Alcohol Manufacturers Remission Scheme and the increasing need for a coordinated industry approach to long-term taxation reform.

### National Advisory Panel – Alcohol Taxation & Alcohol Manufacturers Remission Scheme (AMR)

The new National Advisory Panel will provide strategic advice and expert recommendations to support the future sustainability and competitiveness of Australia's distilling industry.

The Panel will initially focus on the Governments upcoming review of the Alcohol Manufacturers Remission (AMR) Scheme before progressing to the development of a long-term national strategy for comprehensive alcohol taxation reform.

The Panel is advisory only and will provide recommendations to the ADA Board. Decision-making authority remains with the Board following consultation with the broader membership.

**Objectives**

The Panel will:

- Consider emerging risks and opportunities affecting the competitiveness of Australian distillers.
- Provide strategic advice on the future of the Alcohol Manufacturers Remission Scheme.
- Develop recommendations for the ADA's response to the ATO review.
- Identify opportunities to strengthen the integrity and sustainability of the AMR.
- Develop policy options for broader alcohol taxation reform.
- Review member feedback received through consultation and refine recommendations before submission to the ADA Board.

**Scope of Work**

**PHASE ONE**

Develop recommendations relating to:

1. The Australian Taxation Office review of the AMR.
2. Measures to protect the intent and integrity of the scheme.
3. Policy responses to emerging issues including illicit alcohol and misuse of existing arrangements.

**PHASE TWO**

Develop a long-term alcohol taxation advocacy strategy that considers:

1. Recommendations arising from relevant parliamentary inquiries, reports, existing research etc
2. Government/political party commitments regarding alcohol taxation reform.
3. Combatting alcohol opponent's objections to change.
4. Future policy opportunities across excise, remission arrangements and industry competitiveness.

**Authority**

The Panel is an advisory body only. It may:

1. Develop recommendations.
2. Request information or seek expert advice where appropriate.
3. Recommend advocacy priorities.
4. Respond to member requests for information.

The Panel cannot:

5. Determine ADA policy.
6. Make public statements on behalf of the Association.
7. Commit the Association to expenditure.
8. Represent the ADA without Board approval

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**Membership**

The Panel will comprise up to 10 members appointed by the ADA Board. Appointments will seek to achieve an appropriate balance across:

- State and Territory representation
- Business size and production scale
- Business models
- Technical expertise
- Advocacy and policy experience
- Diversity of perspectives
- Business experience

An ADA Board Director will Chair the Panel and the CEO will provide secretariat support.

**Member Responsibilities**

Panel members are expected to:

- Attend meetings and contribute constructively.
- Represent the interests of the Australian distilling industry as a whole.
- Respect differing views.
- Maintain confidentiality where required.
- Declare any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Review papers prior to meetings.

**Meetings**

The Panel will determine its meeting schedule, and meetings will be held online.

The initial term of the Panel will conclude following delivery of recommendations on national alcohol taxation reform, anticipated during 2027.

**Deliverables**

The Panel will provide the ADA Board with:

1. **Recommendations regarding the AMR review.**
2. **A long-term alcohol taxation advocacy strategy.**
3. **Policy positions for member consultation.**

**Review**

These Terms of Reference may be amended by the ADA Board as required.

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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST PROCESS**

ADA members wishing to be involved in the Advisory Panel are invited to express interest via their response to the following questions (maximum 300 words each).

1. Why do you wish to serve on the National Advisory Panel?
    - What motivates you to contribute?
2. What knowledge or experience would you bring?
    - Policy, excise, taxation, business operations, government relations, manufacturing, finance, legal, advocacy, export, etc.
3. How would you ensure you represent the interests of the broader Australian distilling industry rather than only your own business?
4. What emerging opportunities or challenges do you believe should shape Australia's future alcohol taxation system?

**Assessment Matrix**

| **Criteria** | **Weighting** |
|---|---|
| Strategic thinking and ability to consider industry-wide outcomes | 25 |
| Relevant knowledge of taxation, excise, AMR or public policy | 25 |
| Ability to work collaboratively and constructively | 15 |
| Commitment to the ADA's strategic objectives | 10 |
| Communication skills and ability to contribute effectively | 25 |

Appointments are not made solely on scores, the Board will also consider the overall composition of the panel to ensure an appropriate balance of expertise, geography, business size and perspectives.

**Contact for further information:**

David Ridden, ADA President

Tel: 0405 097 723

E: david@granddadjacks.com