

**Tuesday 22 January 2019**

## **WIN A SWAG FOR YOUR PLAN B**

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Eight local licensed venues have joined with Narrandera Shire Council to encourage patrons to have a Plan B to get home safely after a day or night out over the holiday season.

The 'Make Your Swag Plan B' initiative encourages patrons to share their Plan B for getting home to go in the draw to win a swag. The competition started in the lead up to Christmas and will finish on the Australia Day long weekend with winners being drawn at each venue on Monday 28 January.

Drivers were over the legal blood alcohol limit in 15 per cent of all vehicle crashes in Narrandera Shire in the five years 2013-2017. This is well above the state value of four percent and the South West Region value of seven per cent.

These statistics indicate the need to separate driving and drinking. Local pubs and clubs are actively discouraging their patrons from driving after they have been drinking. The competition encourages people to think about practical options to avoid drink driving.

"In rural and regional areas having a Plan B can require more thought as we don't have the same access to public transport and taxis," said Elizabeth Mudford, Narrandera Council's Road Safety Officer.

"However options available include catching a courtesy bus, staying the night somewhere close by or getting picked up by a parent or friend."

"Sleeping in a swag, rolled out on a mate's floor or in the back of the ute, is a great Plan B in country areas. The competition prize reinforces the Plan B message that there is always an alternative to drink driving."

The participating venues are Barellan and District War Memorial Club; Commercial Hotel, Barellan; Charles Sturt Hotel, Narrandera; Murrumbidgee Hotel, Narrandera; Narrandera Bowling and Recreation Club; Narrandera Ex-Servicemen's Club; Narrandera Golf Club; Royal Hotel, Grong Grong.

Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka said "It is great to have local pubs and clubs being proactive in discouraging their patrons from driving after they have been drinking. They are encouraging people to make positive choices to get home, highlighting that driving is not an option."

"People planning on drinking are advised to leave their car at home so there is no temptation to drive. No one wants to be charged with drink driving or worse still be involved in an accident."

In NSW, drink driving is a criminal offence, which can result in significant fines, license disqualification and/or custodial sentences. There are additional random breath testing operations over the holiday period.

# MEDIA RELEASE



Left to Right: Daniel Clark, Barellan and District War Memorial Club; Tom Ryan, Narrandera Bowling and Recreation Club; Jennifer Danaher, Commercial Hotel Barellan; Mayor Cr Neville Kschenka and Rick Boller, Narrandera Ex-Servicemen’s Club.

**END**

Precis or Summary: Win A Swag For Your Plan B			
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