



New combined drink and drug driving offence

Communications toolkit

Background

As announced as part of the Saving Lives Accelerated Package in November 2020, a new offence has been introduced which attracts higher penalties for those caught both drink and drug driving at the same time.

Research shows that the combined use of illicit drugs and alcohol increases the risk of a fatal crash by 23 times.

The combined offence is designed to deter this high-risk behaviour and send a clear message to drivers that they are putting themselves and others at significant risk when mixing alcohol and drugs and that this behaviour will not be tolerated on NSW roads.

This new offence targets those with the highest road safety risk and repeat offenders. This includes drivers who are detected with:

- a middle or high range blood alcohol concentration combined with illicit drug presence, or
- low, novice or special-range alcohol combined with illicit drug presence, if the driver has been convicted of a combined offence within the previous five years.

Tougher penalties will apply for a combined offence, compared to those currently available for separate drink and illicit drug driving offences.

Penalties include increased fine levels and increased minimum disqualification periods. If the offence is a second or subsequent offence within five years, penalties are about double that of a first-time offence.

Alcohol interlocks will be mandatory for people convicted of a combined drink and drug driving offence. Vehicle sanctions may also apply.

For more information, visit:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/alcoholdrugs/drinkdriving/reforms/index.html>

Public education campaign

A public education campaign is being introduced comprising radio, social, Indigenous press and radio and CALD social.

The campaign aims to:



- Re-enforce the level of risk involved in driving with illegal levels of alcohol combined with illicit drugs in your system.
- Generate awareness of the new combined drink and drug driving offence, to encourage motorist compliance.
- Educate motorists on what the new offence is and when it begins.

Key messages

- You're 23 times more at risk of a fatal crash if you drive with a combination of drugs and alcohol in your system.
- It puts the lives of other motorists and pedestrians in danger and there needs to be a strong penalty.
- A new combined drink and drug driving offence is being introduced in NSW on Monday 28 June 2021 which attracts higher penalties for those caught both drink and drug driving at the same time.
- The offence is designed to deter this high-risk behaviour and send a clear message to drivers that they are putting themselves and others at significant risk when mixing alcohol and drugs and that this behaviour will not be tolerated on NSW roads.
- If you're caught, the new drink and drug driving offence will mean harsher penalties, compared to those currently available for separate drink and illicit drug driving offences.
- Penalties include increased fine levels and increased minimum disqualification periods. If the offence is a second or subsequent offence within five years, penalties are about double that of a first-time offence. Alcohol interlocks will be mandatory for people convicted of a combined drink and drug driving offence. Vehicle sanctions may also apply.
- This new law targets those with the highest road safety risk and repeat offenders. This includes drivers who are detected with:
 - a middle or high range blood alcohol concentration combined with illicit drug presence, or
 - low, novice or special-range alcohol combined with illicit drug presence, if the driver has been convicted of a combined offence within the previous five years.
- Tougher penalties are now in force. Don't risk it.

Get involved

We encourage road safety partners and stakeholders to get involved and promote the reforms through their channels and across their communities.

A number of resources are available to use (see 'Creative assets' on the following page). If you have questions, please email towardszero@transport.nsw.gov.au



Creative assets

Website content and FAQs

A range of web content and FAQs will be published online. Please visit:

- The [Drink driving penalties page](#) on the Centre for Road Safety website
- The [Combined drink and drug driving offence page](#) on the Roads and Waterways website



Facebook posts

Share our Facebook posts which will be published on the [NSW Road Safety Facebook](#) page:

- Carousel:
<https://www.facebook.com/nswroadsafety/posts/162420742591672>
- Video:
<https://www.facebook.com/nswroadsafety/posts/7920975615079>



Website and social media tiles

A series of web tiles are available to add to your website, e-newsletter or social media pages.

They are available in the following sizes:

- 204 x 128 pixels. CAL ref: 116345
- 300 x 250 pixels (MREC) CAL ref: 116344
- 385 x 197. CAL ref: 116343
- 1108 x 623. CAL ref: 116342.

These items are attached and can also be ordered from the Creative Assets Library. For instructions on ordering, please see **Appendix 1**.



Media release

“Four Angels Law enforced from today”

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/news-and-events/media-releases/four-angels-law-enforced-from-today>



Appendix 1 - Using the Creative Assets Library

If you already have an account, log in at <http://creativeassets.transport.nsw.gov.au/> and search for 'Drink and drug driving' or use the CAL reference numbers listed above.

To create an account:

- Go to: <http://creativeassets.transport.nsw.gov.au/>
- Click 'Register' on the top right-hand side of the page
- Complete the form
- Click the box to confirm if you agree with the T&Cs
- Submit your registration request to administrator for approval
- You will then receive email confirmation when your account is ready to access (generally within 24-48 hours).

If you have any issues with the CAL, please contact creativeassets@transport.nsw.gov.au and provide any screenshots of the issue.