The Country Liberals Government is continuing its tough stance against drunken anti-social behaviour by quadrupling the penalty for failing to leave licensed premises when asked to do so.

“Refusing to leave a pub or club when asked could now cost you a $576 on-the-spot fine from Police,” Chief Minister Adam Giles.

The fine for refusing to leave used to be $144.

“Both Police and the Australian Hotels Association didn’t believe it presented an adequate deterrent and have been calling for it to be substantially increased,” Mr Giles said.

“We hope this four-fold hike in penalty sends a clear message to revellers over the holiday season that misbehaviour won’t be tolerated.

“It’s time for people to take responsibility for their own actions and this increased penalty raises the stakes if you decide to do the wrong thing.

“The new penalty is part of a suite of targeted measures the Government is introducing to tackle alcohol abuse in our community.

“Alcohol Protection Orders are scheduled to come into operation tomorrow, giving Police a new tool to turn off the tap for people charged with committing crimes whilst drunk.”

Under this legislation, an adult who is charged with committing a serious offence while under the influence of alcohol can be issued with an order that bans them from consuming or possessing alcohol, or going to any licensed premises.

The orders can be issued to anyone charged with an offence when under the influence that attracts a possible jail term of at least six months. The orders can run for a period of either three, six or 12 months.

“My message to party-goers this festive season is to have a good time but do it responsibly. These penalties are all easy to avoid if you do the right thing,” Mr Giles said.

“If you’re going out on the town, plan ahead and organise a Sober Bob. Police will be out in force so don’t drink and drive. It’s not worth the risk.

“No one wants an empty seat at the dinner table this Christmas.”