

# Media Release

**The Hon Enver Erdogan MP**

Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Corrections

Minister for Youth Justice



Wednesday, 18 February 2026

## LIQUOR LICENCE RELIEF FOR BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED BUSINESSES

The Allan Labor Government is helping businesses hit by this summer's bushfires – waiving and refunding liquor licence fees so local operators can focus on reopening and recovery.

Minister Enver Erdogan today announced that businesses affected by the January 2026 bushfires will have their liquor licence renewal fees waived.

This support will help pubs, wineries, distilleries, cafés and bottle shops save money at a time when every dollar counts.

Businesses in areas including Avenel, Merton, Seymour, Alexandra, Skipton, Natimuk, Tallangatta, Gellibrand and many more are eligible.

Businesses who lost stock in the Harcourt Cooperative Cool Stores fire will also have their 2026 fee waived.

More relief will be extended to licensees impacted by bushfires still active across the state.

All eligible businesses will have their fees automatically waived or refunded.

Hospitality and retail businesses play a vital role in local economies and supporting them is central to helping regional communities recover from this year's devastating bushfires.

The fee relief builds on more than \$370 million in jointly funded support already announced for affected families, farmers, businesses and councils.

For recovery help, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 or visit [vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery](https://vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Enver Erdogan

*"Businesses impacted by the fires have lost stock and trade, and many are rebuilding from scratch – and these fee waivers will take one pressure off their recovery."*

*"We'll continue to back bushfire-affected communities and support the businesses that are so important to local jobs, local economies and local recovery."*