Media Release

The Hon Enver Erdogan MP
Minister for Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Youth Justice

VICTORIA State Government

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BUTTING OUT ILLICIT TOBACCO

The Allan Labor Government is cracking down on illicit tobacco and the organised crime gangs it funds – to keep Victorians safe.

Tobacco Licensing Victoria (TLV) has seized almost $5 million worth of illegal tobacco in its first month, including:

- 3.19 million cigarettes
- 2,243 cigars
- 40 kilograms of loose-leaf tobacco
- 32 kilograms of shisha tobacco.

Individuals caught face fines of up to $370,000 or 15 years' jail, while businesses face penalties of more than $1.8 million.

But Labor is going further with new powers to crack down on illicit tobacco.

Under laws to be introduced this year, TLV will be able to order businesses caught selling illicit tobacco to close.

Landlords will also be given new powers to kick out businesses selling illicit tobacco.

Landlords that knowingly allow these sales will face tough new penalties.

Inspectors will also get the power to destroy seized illicit tobacco pre-trial.

This will help keep illegal tobacco off the streets and make prosecutions faster.

Inspectors continue to work closely with Victoria Police and other enforcement agencies, providing intelligence to disrupt organised crime and illicit tobacco supply chains.

This is part of the Allan Labor Government's plan to smoke out this dangerous industry and make life safer for families.

For more information including reporting suspicious activity or to view the licensed list, visit vic.gov.au/tobacco-licensing.

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

"Illicit tobacco fuels organised crime, and we're shutting down the operators who think they can get away with it."

"Our inspectors are moving fast to crack down on people doing the wrong thing – anyone caught selling illicit tobacco will face serious consequences."

"Only Labor has the new solutions to keep Victorians safe."