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## 5 STAR RATING SYSTEM TO REWARD GOOD LIQUOR LICENSEES

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition have announced a 5 star rating system to reward liquor licensees who act responsibly and observe the law.

Under the system, licensees would receive discounts on their liquor licence fee renewals where they had two or more consecutive years without incurring relevant infringements of licensing laws.

This initiative follows the Brumby Labor Government's \$20 million liquor licence tax grab, which hits all manner of licensed venues across Victoria and provides no recognition of, or reward for, responsible conduct.

The Brumby Government has treated Victoria's 19,000 liquor licensees – many of which are small businesses and community groups – as cash cows. They are rightly insulted by the Brumby Government's action which suggests that they bear primary responsibility for increasing numbers of violent assaults on our streets.

While we are getting tough on rogue operators with our demerit points scheme, we want to reward and encourage those responsible licensees who do the right thing.

The system will significantly revamp Labor's liquor licence fee structure, which charges higher licence renewal fees where relevant infringements have been recorded by the licensee in the previous 12 months.

Under current liquor laws, licensees with a recent infringement history will pay much higher renewal fees. A Coalition Government will use fee increases attributable to infringements to provide discounted renewal fees for 4 and 5 star venues, ensuring the policy is revenue neutral.

Under the Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition policy, liquor licensees would receive a star rating based on the following criteria:

<b>RATING</b>	<b>CRITERIA</b>
1 Star	3 or more infringements in previous 12 months
2 Star	1-2 infringements in previous 12 months
3 Star	No infringements in previous 12 months
4 Star	No infringements in previous 24 months
5 Star	No infringements in previous 36 months