

Payment of the annual licence fee is due this month

Licensees are reminded that the due date for payment of the annual licence fee is fast approaching and penalties and sanctions for non-payment are serious.

To avoid penalty, payment must be made no later than 1 January 2010.

The annual licence fee for all licences, save for club restricted licences now set at \$250, has dramatically increased to \$500. The fee for the year just ended for all licences, except a wholesaler's licence, was \$155. A wholesaler's licence fee was \$330.

Additional fees are also due in relation to extended trading permits (**ETPs**) issued in relation to the licensed premises which have a duration greater than three weeks. If the licensed premises has no more than two ETP's, the additional amount has risen from \$105 to \$200. If the premises has three or more ETPs the \$205 fee has increased to \$400.

If any of these fees are not paid by 8 January 2010 a penalty fee, equal to the annual licence fee, will also be payable.

The consequences of non-payment of the fee after 8 January become increasingly serious and may result in suspension or cancellation of the licence.

Non-payment at 15 January enables the Director of Liquor Licensing (**Director**) to serve notice requiring payment of the licence fee and the penalty fee within 7 days. If payment is not made within this 7 day period the Director may suspend the licence until the amount outstanding is paid.

In the case of non-payment at 29 January, the Director may serve notice requiring payment of the licence and penalty fees within 7 days and giving intention to issue complaint proceedings if not paid. If this notice is not complied with the Director may cancel the licence.

There is a discretion to reduce, waive or refund in whole or in part fees, but this power is rarely exercised.