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Aviation fuel excise to go up from July

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The excise on aviation fuel will go up 25 per cent from July, under draft laws passed by parliament.

The government announced in its May budget that it would seek to increase the excise by 0.702 cents to 3.556 cents a litre.

The \$90 million expected to be raised by the measure during the next four years will go to regulator the Civil Aviation and Safety Authority.

It will be used to recruit almost 100 additional frontline CASA staff including safety specialists, safety analysts and airworthiness inspectors.

The extra revenue will also ensure that CASA can continue random testing for alcohol and drugs within the industry, invest in the development and maintenance of safety standards, and provide expanded training for staff.

Liberal frontbencher Ian Macdonald said the move surprised the aviation industry.

"The government had not contacted any aviation industry stakeholders on this issue before introducing the bill," he told parliament on Thursday.

But Senator Macdonald agreed that maintaining Australia's reputation for "safe skies" was important.

The Excise Tariff Amendment (Aviation Fuel) Bill 2010 and a related bill now await royal assent.

This story was found at: <http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/aviation-fuel-excise-to-go-up-from-july-20100624-z2nh.html>