

## **Aviation Security charges to be reduced**

TIA has welcomed the Government's announcement that aviation security charges will decrease from April, with Policy Manager Simon Wallace saying it is something the association had argued for strongly.

The international security charge will decrease from \$15 to \$10 per departing international traveller, while the charge for domestic travellers will drop from \$4.66 to \$4.35 (including GST). These charges are paid by airlines.

Mr Wallace says TIA, along with the Board of Airline Representatives NZ had made a strong submission to the Aviation Security Service (AVSEC) in late 2009, advocating a drop in charges due to the significant reserves and surpluses being held by the agency.

Transport Minister Steven Joyce has listened to industry concerns, stating the reduction in aviation security charges is due to significant excess surpluses accumulated by AVSEC, estimated to be \$35 million from international security charges and \$6.5 million from domestic charges.

Mr Wallace says TIA is pleased the Minister saw that this level of surplus was an unfair imposition on airlines and the travelling public and outside the regulatory guidelines for government fees.

## **Maritime Safety Charges for the cruise sector**

Following extensive lobbying by TIA, Cruise New Zealand and other industry players, the Government has announced it will be releasing a consultation document shortly on a proposal to lower maritime safety charges for cruise ships.

TIA Policy Manager Simon Wallace says Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) increased the safety charge by almost 300% in the 2008/2009 year in a flawed process that involved poor consultation with the cruise industry.

“Imposing a 300% fee hike for cruise liners to New Zealand equates to a per person charge of \$8.07, up from \$2.85, which is unacceptable. We wrote to the Prime Minister providing details about the concerns of the cruise ship industry. A 300% increase would generate fees well in excess of the cost of servicing the ships by MNZ. The fees are also significantly higher than those levied in Australia, which doesn't help the competitiveness of the fast-growing New Zealand cruise ship market.”