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### **DRINKERS WON'T RAISE A GLASS TO THIS FEDERAL BUDGET**

Beer and spirit drinkers in pubs across Australia definitely won't be raising a glass to a Federal Budget set to cost them a billion dollars in hidden taxes over the next four years.

Already amongst the highest taxed drinkers in the world, punters already struggling with cost-of-living pressures face further tax hikes on their favourite beverages in August 2024 and February 2025 as the Government again refuses a tax freeze on its unpopular beer and whiskey excise.

"Both sides of politics talk about lower taxes, and the Government will shout about all the good things in the Budget, but I don't see anyone standing up in the media to tell you they are putting up the price of beer and spirits yet again - twice in the next 12 months alone," he said.

"They are addicted to the revenue and the punter in the main bar is paying for it again and again."

This budget continues the twice yearly increase to liquor excise growing from \$8.1B in 2024/25 to \$9.35B in 2027/28 or "an additional \$1.2B ripped from drinkers' pockets."

"This hidden fun tax hits everyone who enjoys a beer or a whiskey with their mates," Mr Ferguson said.

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