

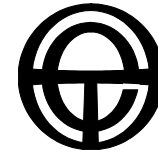
TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.

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SENATE CONTAINER DEPOSITS INQUIRY: SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISISON ON RECYCLING FIGURES

A number of estimates of the recycling rate for beverage containers have appeared in recent years. The key data dimensions are:

- consumption, including imported beverages. Until recently the absence of accurate data on imports slanted the figures towards inaccurate high recycling rates but this has now been largely rectified.
- recycling tonnes - as opposed to 'collected' which includes stockpiles which are excluded from the yearly recycling rate; or in fact may include material eventually landfilled
- the distinction between at-home and away-from-home, with away from home recycling much lower.

The data is obtained from industry often under confidentiality arrangements and accuracy can sometimes be difficult to verify.

1. Industry Edge/Equilibrium Report for the Packaging Stewardship Forum of the AFGC (2011):

**Table 1: Consumption and Recycling of Beverage Containers for FY 2010-11
(tonnes and %)**

	Aluminium	Glass	LPB	PET	HDPE	TOTAL
Consumption	57,196	961,454	31,321	113,240	153,976	1,317,187
Recycling	36,600	498,660	18,575	63,063	66,690	683,588
Recycling rate	64%	52%	59%	56%	43%	52%

The main criticism of these numbers is that the recycling tonnes included stockpiles which have not been actually recycled – so the recycling rate for the year is somewhat overstated. Additionally the report found more accurate figures on imports. It did not arrive at at-home and away-from-home rates.

2. Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (2011):

Table 2 - Consumption and Recycling of Packaging Materials: 2010

Material	Consumption (tonnes)	Recyclate (tonnes)	Recycling (%)	2010 APC target recycling
Paper/cardboard	2,880,000	2,024,000	75.5%	70%-80%
Glass	991,000	466,000	47.0%	50%-80%
Plastics	565,000	197,000	34.8%	30%-35%
Steel cans	136,000	41,000	30.3%	60%-85%
Aluminium cans	51,800	35,000	67.4%	70%-75%
Totals	4,424,000	2,763,000	62.5%	65%

Source: Australian Packaging Covenant, '2010 Covenant Performance Data', available at <<http://www.packagingcovenant.org.au/page.php?name=covenantperformancedata>>, accessed 4 July 2011.

Note: * Target 1 of the 2005 Covenant, cited in Australian Packaging Covenant (2011) *The National Packaging Covenant – 2010 Annual Report*, p 11.

The data derived from the Australian Packaging Covenant does not include stockpiles. The total recycling rate of 62.5% includes paper which is almost all non-beverage

material. If paper is excluded then the recycling rate drops dramatically into the 40+% area. The CRIS estimated total beverage container recycling at about 48% in total, and much less for away-from-home (plastic 23%; glass 27%; steel 21%, aluminium 30%.)

3. Boomerang Alliance (CRIS Submission 2011):

Table 2: Adjusted 2011 Recycling tonnes

Packaging material	Adjusted Packaging Consumption (tonnes)	Adjusted Beverage Container Consumption	RIS Packaging Recycling Estimate (tonnes)	RIS Beverage Container Recycling Estimate	% Recycling Rate - Packaging	% Recycling Rate - Bev. Containers
Paper/cardboard	2,711,321	31,321	2,024,000	12,680*	74.65%	40.48%
Glass	1,166,454	961,454	466,000	362,000	39.95%	37.65%
Plastics	565,285	267,216	197,000	93,000	34.85%	34.80%
Steel cans	136,249	68,000	41,000	27,000	30.09%	39.71%
Aluminium	65,362	57,196	35,000	31,640*	53.54%	55.32%
Composite Bev Containers	11,479	11,479	-	2,058*		17.93%
Total	4,656,150	1,396,666	2,763,000	528,378	59.49%	37.83%

The BA analysis took account of increased consumption in the PSF report and used APC recycling data.

Jeff Angel
 Executive Director
 13 November 2012