

# SUBMISSION

SENATE ENVIRONMENT COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE:

INQUIRY INTO

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (BEVERAGE  
CONTAINER DEPOSIT & RECOVERY  
SCHEME) BILL 2009

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**This Submission is contributed in support of The Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009 for the following reasons:**

Australian Environment Ministers endorsed a packaging recycling target of 65% to be achieved by 2010. If this is to be achieved, it will mean the annual recovery of an extra 1.0 million tonnes of packaging over and above the current 1.5 million tonnes.

How will this happen and who will pay?

Currently, local government (nationally) has costs associated with kerbside recycling collection at \$338 million annually. This is an enormous amount of ratepayers' money on top of the cost of collecting household residual waste, street bin rubbish and litter.

But, kerbside collections were not designed to deal with the large and growing amount of bottles and cans generated by take away food outlets, sporting venues, pubs, shopping malls, office blocks, parks and beaches.

Container deposits offer a sound option. Such schemes exist in over 30 nations around the world including American and Canadian states and European countries as well as in South Australia where it has been implemented for over thirty years under the banner of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL).

CDL refers to the mandatory deposit on containers to encourage their return by consumers. Depending on the deposit system, containers can be returned to the manufacturers via the retailer, designated collection depot, reverse vending machines or recovered as part of existing waste or recycling collection system. Any person returning the container receives a standard refund. CDL requires manufacturers to take responsibility for the returned containers either to refill, recycle or dispose of them.

- Firstly, figures from the 2006 National Litter Index show that drink containers are the Number One litter item by volume and the Number Three by quantity.

- Secondly, one third of litter collected on Clean Up Australia Day in 2008 were drink containers.
- Thirdly, by comparing production and recycling rates for drink containers it can be seen at least 3 billion drink containers are not recycled in Australia each year. Many of these 3 billion drink containers become litter.

The most compelling reason why Australia should introduce a national deposit is because of the very large reductions in CO2 emissions that could be achieved. This assertion is based on the 2007 report of the Stakeholders Advisory Group which investigated a best practice container deposit system for Western Australia. It concluded that a container deposit system in WA 'would reduce CO2 emissions there by tens of thousands of tonnes per year.' It also said 'it would save millions of litres of water.'

A Drink Container Deposit system would complement and support existing kerbside recycling systems and those of public recycling bins.