

I am writing in support of this bill. In my neighbourhood (Rosebud, Victoria), I routinely pick up half a dozen cans or bottles, on my regular walks, and bring them back to put in my recycling. While I do what I can, there always comes a point when I cannot carry another bottle or can safely, and so they remain on the nature strip.

As I understand it, jurisdictions that have deposit legislation for drinks containers, have markedly higher recycling rates than ones that don't (I've heard figures like 80% thrown around). I would support any legislation in Australia that aimed to achieve this. We are fast reaching a widespread resource crisis in the modern world. While the most well known one is oil, demand for other resources such as phosphorus or nickel are also rapidly exceeding accessible supplies. Anything we can do to reduce demand for 'virgin' resources will be vital, and that is the purpose of this bill. Producing aluminium from ore takes vastly more energy than producing it from recycled aluminium. Reducing the energy, and thus the costs, needed to produce our aluminium in my home state Victoria, might enable us to increase the price we charge the aluminium smelter for power, as their need for power reduces. This would then be a double win for the environment.

I urge the swift passage of this legislation,
Yarrow Andrew