



17 August 2009

Re: Senate Inquiry into Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009

The Boomerang Alliance (BA), an alliance of both local government and non-government organisations, supports the submission of the Total Environment Centre and attaches for your considerations, our briefing paper, *Container Deposits: The common sense approach towards a zero waste society, April 2008*.

Australia is at a critical point in its decision on whether to introduce container deposits (CD). To do so would be environmentally responsible; create many hundreds of jobs; be an investment in the future for more sustainable recycling; help local government finances¹; increase state and federal revenues (approx \$81million pa); reduce the use of finite resources; and have minimal impact on consumers who redeem deposits.

CD provides a positive incentive for individuals and businesses to support Australia's resource recovery, and to address the away from home waste stream that currently has little to no sustainable support. CD is the only policy choice that addresses these issues.

The attached BA financial analysis shows that a national CD system will:

- Reduce the volume of litter in our parks, beaches and roadsides by 12-15%
- Increase Australia's recycling by over 630,000 tonnes p.a.
- Achieve a 6% diversion of all MSW waste away from landfill
- Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by over 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂e per year (equivalent to 197,000 homes switching to 100% renewable energy)
- Save enough water to permanently supply over 24,000 Australian homes
- Deliver the same level of Australian air quality improvements as taking 140,000 cars off the road

¹ Councils gain a net financial benefit from - reduced kerbside collection costs, reduced waste levies/gate fees; and unredeemed deposits.

- Provide 250,000+ Australian homes with access to recycling services for the first time
- Save rate payers over \$59.8million per annum
- Significantly reduce the number of turtles, lizards, seals and birds killed by litter across Australia
- Create at least 1,000 new jobs, mostly in rural and regional Australia

Importantly our investigation highlights that container deposits can work with and improve the economics of kerbside, reducing the overall cost by at least \$59 million p.a. Further, BA had no difficulty finding industry operators who were prepared to provide 100% of the capital investment to build a collection system, meaning that the system will be delivered with no infrastructure investment required by government.

Further information:

Jeff Angel

The Boomerang Alliance are: Australian Conservation Foundation, Arid Lands Environment Centre, CleanUp Australia, Conservation Council of South Australia Conservation Council of Western Australia, Environment Centre of the Northern Territory, Environment Tasmania Environment Victoria, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace Australia Pacific, Local Government & Shires Association of NSW, NSW Nature Conservation Council, Queensland Conservation Council, Tasmanian Conservation Trust, Total Environment Centre.