

Hello Senators,

I write to you on behalf of Emerald for Sustainability (EmFSus), a community organisation working with residents, businesses and community groups in reducing their water and energy consumption, minimising waste and increasing biodiversity. A grass roots approach to tackling climate change. We meet once a month to share views, ideas, suggestions to making the change to a low carbon lifestyle and regularly have an inspirational guest speaker. We currently have about 50 members.

I have been one of a number of people in Victoria lobbying to have a Container Deposit introduced, similar to the one that operates in South Australia, and I can't believe that we don't have one; and a National approach is a logical one.

Time and time again, introduction of legislation like this is continually thwarted by the self interests of greedy corporations - which makes me cross!

At the community level, the introduction of Container Deposit legislation is hugely supported, unfortunately, not all people are willing (or have the time) to put pen to paper, email or even engage their local MP to let them know their concerns.

From my understanding and research, container litter constitutes 47% of all litter - even if the figures are not the same as the ones that you have to work with, the reality is that kerbside recycling, advocated by Packaging industry is clearly NOT working for people who drink away from home. When I mean drinking away from home, that includes:- alcohol containers, flavoured milk, soft drink, juice containers and the dreaded bottled water containers - all of which have dubious health connections.

A Container Deposit scheme would definitely complement the current kerbside recycling by offering an alternative to tossing a container away, when someone is out and about. Sensible people will not throw away an item that has a monetary value attached to it, and should those people (who aren't sensible) continue to do so, then community groups who regularly clean up public and open spaces; such as scouts, sporting organisations, Lions & Rotary clubs, etc, will be 'rewarded' with money that can be made from the litter that they already pick up - totally sensible and logical.

Quite frankly, I can't believe that we are still lobbying to have something as sensible as a Container Deposit legislation introduced - I sincerely hope that you all feel the same way! and implore you to 'Do the right thing' and legislate to make the Beverage Container Deposit & Recovery Bill a reality.

Cheers,

Lee Fuller
Convenor
EmFSus
(Emerald for Sustainability)