

NATIONAL OFFICE

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The Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

Submitted via email: [eca.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:eca.sen@aph.gov.au)

**Submission to the Senate Committee Inquiry  
into the Environment Protection  
(Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009**

***About Veolia Environmental Services***

Veolia Environmental Services is part of the global Veolia Environnement Group and is one of Australia's leading waste management providers. Veolia Environmental Services in Australia reported operating revenue of \$842 million in 2008, and employs over 3,000 staff.

Veolia Environmental Services provides waste management, recycling and industrial services to over 550,000 households and 80,000 commercial clients across Australia.

These services include municipal and commercial waste collection, liquid waste treatment, hazardous waste collection and treatment, material recovery, anaerobic digestion of foodwaste for energy production, composting, medical waste incineration, hazardous waste stabilisation, construction waste recycling, soil remediation, e-waste collection, cleaning and maintenance services for heavy industry and full facilities management for industrial properties. We also, either directly or through joint ventures,





operate six landfills in Australia. In providing these services, we operate a fleet of over 500 waste collection trucks nationally.

In 2008 we collected over 2.8 million tonnes of waste and recyclables. Our landfills and waste treatment facilities processed over 3.5 million tonnes of waste, and we collected and/or treated over 550,000 tonnes for re-use or reprocessing in 2008.

Veolia also operates the beverage container deposit buy back facility in Whyalla on behalf of the South Australian government, so we are well placed to comment on the proposed Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme Bill currently under review.

***Comments on the proposed Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009***

Veolia encourages the sustainable use of resources and the diversion of waste to sorting facilities when sustainable end-uses are available.

Collecting and processing recyclable materials from waste streams is a core business function of Veolia. We also support the reduction of litter, as evidenced by our ongoing sponsorships of Clean Up Australia and Keep Australia Beautiful.

Our views on the introduction of a national beverage container deposit scheme are outlined below.

- 1) Beverage container deposit schemes are one of several tools that are available to help increase resource recovery and reduce litter.
- 2) Beverage container deposit schemes are not 'stand alone' solutions for resource recovery. As such, they should be used in conjunction with other compatible collection, recycling and educational systems to contribute effectively to an overall increase in resource recovery and a reduction in litter.
- 3) Beverage container deposit schemes should only be implemented if the scheme proves to offer significant increases in resource recovery and litter reduction.





- 4) The introduction of a beverage container deposit scheme needs to consider the additional transport and labour costs, and their associated environmental and economic impacts, as these schemes generally duplicate existing collection arrangements.
  
- 5) Implementation of beverage deposit schemes should only be undertaken after careful consideration of the impacts, and potential adverse effects, on existing systems. The most likely existing system which may be adversely affected by beverage container deposit schemes is domestic kerbside recycling. Substantial effort and capital has been employed by local governments and waste contractors to roll out extensive infrastructure to collect household recyclable materials. Kerbside recycling, through extensive education and continuous availability for over a decade, is now performing well. As such, the potential to compromise these existing systems with the introduction of new schemes should be considered carefully before any action is taken.

In conclusion, Veolia believes that 'container deposit schemes' can have a place in integrated waste management services, but that their introduction must be carefully considered to avoid duplication and unnecessary consumer expenditure.

If you have any questions regarding Veolia's submission, please contact Miriam Cumming on 02 8571 0118.

Yours sincerely,

**Doug Dean**

Managing Director

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