

I wrote to the Victorian environment minister and the Victorian premier supporting a container deposit. The premier told me to contact the environment minister, and the environment minister did not reply. Furthermore, the Victorian government suffocated parliamentary debate on this initiative. Why? Who is opposing this idea? Who are the losers? The beverage industry (CCA, Fosters etc) and possibly the packaging industry. Weigh this against the environment, charity and community groups, and those living on the streets, who can make money picking up containers that would otherwise end up in landfill.

In case you believe that current recycling initiatives are sufficient, I invite you to look at the floating waste traps on the Yarra river. All are full of containers that would be collected if there were a financial incentive.

Please follow the enlightened lead of South Australia and numerous overseas jurisdictions and introduce a widespread container deposit scheme.

E. D. Anstee

