

To: Committee Secretary, Senate Standing Committee on Environment, Communications and the Arts

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

20 July 2009

Dear Madam/Sir

Burnley Neighbourhood Centre, 92 Lord Street, Richmond, Victoria 3121 would like to make a submission into the inquiry into the above mentioned Bill.

We are part of the national Neighbourhood House network providing programs and services to the local community.

At our centre, one of our key objectives is to promote environmental sustainability through policies that foster a reduce, reuse, recycle philosophy across all activities and services.

As such, we support the Greens Party proposal for a national container deposit scheme and would like to see this introduced as quickly as possible.

Community groups such as ours play a small part in helping to reduce Australia's landfill by promoting the "three r's" message to centre users. However, what will really make a difference is the Federal Government cutting through the unnecessary red tape and making a national container deposit scheme a reality, and soon.

When we hear about a potential decrease in litter nationally by 12-15% and the diversion of more than 740,000 tonnes of waste from land fill, it seems ludicrous that this isn't already happening.

The responsibility for tackling waste shouldn't just fall on local councils. An all of Government response is needed and it's time for the Federal Government to take action.

Clare Thompson and Simone Gardiner on behalf of Burnley Neighbourhood Centre