

25.7.09

Re: Drink Container Deposit Scheme

On our daily dog walks around Heathmont, my husband and I collect the discarded, recyclable drink containers that we find. On average, a 3 km dog walk results in a plastic supermarket bag full of plastic, glass and aluminium containers. (We find the bags too.) If we walked into Ringwood, the haul would be at least two or three times this amount.

There two environmental issue here:

1. Litter. The suburbs look a mess. Bottles and cans make their way into creeks, rivers and out into the bay where they are a hazard to wildlife. We collect the rubbish we find when we are camping or hiking too. Even our lovely, remote places are littered with recyclables.
2. Recycling. This is an issue with respect to landfill, the consumption of energy and water in manufacturing, and to the earth's natural resources. We know we must recycle and re-use rather than creating more and more items which will end up either as litter or as landfill. Our minerals, energy and water are not limitless.

With one of our sons now living in Adelaide, we have the opportunity to visit Sout Australia quite regularly. The amount of recyclable litter is noticeably less there. Even if one person is irresponsible enough to drop their drink bottle/can, someone else will be glad to collect it for the deposit money.

It seems crazy not to have a deposit system here in Victoria, and, indeed, throughout Australia. Surely if it can be done successfully in South Australia without bringing businesses to their knees, it can be done here too.

Please ensure that a drink container deposit scheme becomes a reality. Soon!

Yours sincerely,
Olwyn Smiley