

Local Government Association of Queensland

Supplementary Submission Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Committee Inquiry into the Management of Australia's Waste Streams

Question on Notice:

At the Senate Inquiry Public Hearing in Sydney on 3 July, 2008, Senator Fielding asked the following question of the LGAQ representatives:

Do you know what the recycling rates of containers covered by the South Australian CDL are in Queensland?.....I do not think anyone has questioned that the level of recycling of those types of containers is around 30-plus per cent. Given your submission talks about CDL so much, I am surprised you do not know what the rate is for your own area.

At the time, the LGAQ representatives did not have the information requested, so the required data is now provided for the information of the Committee.

The Queensland Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) collects statistical data from Councils and industry annually and compiles a "State of Waste and Recycling Report" for Queensland each year. In 2004, the EPA obtained data on the amount of beverage containers that are received into the community in Queensland. This enabled a percentage to be calculated of the amount of containers recycled through kerbside in the State. The EPA has advised that this data has not been collected since so recent figures are not available.

Table 1: Percentage of Beverage Containers Recycled in Queensland, 2004

Household recyclable material	Estimated consumption rate 2004		Recycling rate 2004		Proportion of consumed material that was recycled by Councils
	t/yr	Kg/person*	t/yr	Kg/person*	
Glass	131 609	34.9	48 406	13.4	37%
Steel cans	38 618	10.3	4 521	1.2	12%
PET	15 417	4.1	4 222	1.2	27%
Aluminium cans	9 025	2.4	2 012	0.6	22%

* The per capita consumption rate is based on the population of Queensland, while the per capita recycling rate is based on the population of Councils supplying data.

Source: Queensland EPA, "State of Waste and Recycling, 2004", p.5

Based on these figures and the comments made by Senator Fielding, it does not appear as though the kerbside recycling rate in Queensland is demonstrably less than that applicable in South Australia.

Additional Report:

At the Hearing, LGAQ officers also referred to a report prepared by the Australian Food and Grocery Council. This report provided information on research that has been carried out in Europe and North America. The report is attached for information.

Please note that in this submission, based on numerous studies referenced therein, serious questions have been identified as to the overall success of CDL as an effective tool in waste management in Europe, North America and within Australia. We would ask that these studies be taken into consideration by the Committee.

Greg Hoffman
Director Policy and Representation
Local Government Association of Queensland

28 July 2008