



Mr Stephen Palethorpe
The Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Environment,
Communications and the Arts
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Inquiry into the Management of Australia's Waste Streams & the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008

The Waste Management Board of Western Australia (WMB) shares your interest in identifying and assessing approaches and strategies to improve waste management and recycling.

The Board wishes to highlight the current Western Australian extensive investigations into a possible container deposit scheme (CDS) for Western Australia. The investigation has reached several important milestones since it began in January 2006, including a report of the findings and recommendations of a Stakeholder Advisory Group investigation that was publicly released online in April 2007 (www.zerowastewa.com.au/ourwork/specificprograms/).

The State Government, with the Board's support, has continued to investigate CDS in the light of the Advisory Group's findings and other additional research and activities. In recognition of this leadership in investigating CDS, Western Australia was appointed to chair a working group, jointly with Queensland, to carry out a national assessment of the merits of CDS, by the Environment Ministers from the Commonwealth and all States and Territories at the Environment Protection and Heritage Council meeting on 17 April 2008.

Two important issues should be highlighted about national approaches in recycling and re-use. Firstly the different jurisdictions are at different stages of consultation, decision-making and implementation of extended producer responsibility systems including container deposit systems. It would be desirable not to lose momentum within jurisdictions through any activities towards a 'fresh start' at a national level.



Waste Management Board of Western Australia
Locked Bag 104 Bentley Delivery Centre, Western Australia 6983
Tel: 6364 6500 Fax: 63645532
E-mail: info@zerowastewa.com.au
www.zerowastewa.com.au



Secondly, the great distances between the population centres in Western Australia from the rest of the country mean it is unlikely that there will be physical one-ness in schemes for drink containers, tyres, batteries, waste oil, electronics etc. This does not mean that there should not be common principles, nor that Commonwealth empowerment might not help, but that state-based implementation (with capacity for state-based nuances) are likely appropriate.

The Board looks forward to seeing progress on strategies and approaches to improving waste management and recycling, in addition to assisting to progress Western Australia's own work on these important issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barry Carbon', written in a cursive style.

Barry Carbon
CHAIRMAN
WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

6 May 2008