

From: Peter Simpson

Sent: Thursday, 22 May 2008 10:12 PM

To: Committee, ECA (SEN)

Subject: Support for drink container deposit scheme

SUBMISSION TO THE INQUIRY INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF AUSTRALIA'S WASTE STREAMS

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter to show my support of a refund system to be put on all recyclable drink containers.

This should be implemented nationally.

I myself have been recycling aluminium cans since they were first introduced in 1972. God knows how many I've collected since then! At the time of starting it was a good source of pocket money, and I never gave away the habit even though I don't need the money.

These days with the kerbside collection I put whatever can be recycled into the appropriate bin. I live in Geelong, Victoria and believe we have one of the best collection services in the country. Despite this there is still a surprising amount of material, particularly plastic bottles to be seen on the side of the road etc.

I believe if a deposit was introduced a lot of these containers would be picked up by children or clubs could get involved and generate extra funds for their own benefit.

Below are some facts and figures on recycling.

Every year in Australia over 2 billion cans and bottles are not recycled. Many of these end up as litter or in our waterways.

In March 2008, the Age newspaper, published a list of over 200 community groups that support the introduction of a container deposit system in Victoria. These groups know how big a problem drink container litter is. They support a deposit system because they know the South Australian system works.

In South Australia 74% of PET bottles are recycled. Nationally only 35% of PET bottles are recycled. Recycling figures for cans and glass bottles are also much higher in South Australia. This is proof that deposit systems work.

The Scouts in SA make a lot of money from cans and bottles every year. Cans and bottles would become a valuable source of fundraising for community groups all over the country if we had a National Container Deposit System.

The Stakeholders Investigation into a best practice Container Deposit System in Western Australia showed that a deposit system there would

reduce CO2 emissions by tens of thousands of tonnes per year. A National Container Deposit System would therefore reduce Australia's CO2 emissions significantly.

Contrary to opinions expressed by the beverage and packaging industry a deposit system would help rather hurt our existing kerbside recycling systems. The South Australian experience proves this because there the 2 systems co-exist side by side and compliment one another.

The National Packaging Covenant has not reduced the problem of drink container litter. Therefore, we should not wait until the end of the Covenant in 2010 before we introduce a National Container Deposit System.

8000 Australian children are treated in hospital each year for injuries caused by stepping on littered glass.

A deposit system would reduce the large amounts of money that councils spend each year cleaning up litter. Victorian Councils spend over \$50 million a year cleaning up litter.

Figures from the 2006 National Litter Index, show that drink containers are the number one litter item by volume and the number three litter item by quantity.

In closing, here's what Simsmetal has to say:

"recycling one aluminium can saves enough energy to power a television for three hours, and it takes 75% less energy to make steel from recycled metal than it does from mining"

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Regards

Peter Simpson