

**From:** Tracey Hansford (Scouts Australia NSW)

**Sent:** Friday, 23 May 2008 2:31 PM

**To:** Committee, ECA (SEN)

**Cc:** Grant De Fries (Scouts Australia NSW)

**Subject:** Submission to Senate Enquiry - Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008

I write on behalf of the NSW Branch of Scouts Australia in support of the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008. One of our Scout Laws is to care for the environment and we welcome any measure that has a positive impact in this regard, for the benefit of our Youth Members and future generations.

Naturally we have observed first hand the income generation enjoyed by our colleagues in South Australia Scouting, due to the laws in that State. Scouts in NSW are well positioned to enjoy similar benefits if the laws were changed accordingly. We have a successful history in this regard, with Scouts collecting bottles and paper at Scout Halls some decades ago. Not only were these activities an excellent fundraising tool for the local Scout Group, but also an activity that brought members of the community together for a common purpose. Most of our Scout Halls retain the space and capability to act as collection depots, as they did in the past.

Whether our Association would invest in the infrastructure utilized by our colleagues in South Australia would be a decision for the future.

The costs of Scouting can often be a challenge to many of our Members, both to join and remain in Scouting, but also to attend the variety of events we offer eg Jamborees. While our Association has taken measures to address these costs (through reductions in State fees, the introduction of a new uniform that is less costly, etc) we are in constant need of funds and fundraising measures to ensure more young people can participate in the opportunities that Scouting has been offering young people and communities for the last 100 years. Therefore we support this bill to help us achieve as such.

Grant De Fries  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts Australia NSW