

## **Submission to the Senate Standing Committee for the Inquiry into Australia's Waste Streams**

From: Rod Baker

This submissions mainly relates to point f, but is **also relevant to points a, to e.**

**1.** It is estimated that, in Australia, many more than two billion drink containers are not recycled every year, year after year.

Sustainability Victoria on their website say:

a) By recycling one aluminium can, you save enough energy to run your TV for 3 hours.

b) Making aluminium cans from recycled aluminium uses only 5% of the energy needed to make cans from the raw materials.

c) Every aluminium can that is collected and recycled saves 767 grams of carbon dioxide which is the equivalent of one wheelie bin of greenhouse gas emissions.

d) Recycling PET saves 84% of the energy it takes to make PET from raw materials.

e) Recycling glass saves 74% of the energy it takes to make glass from raw materials.

### **2. Increased recycling of drink containers reduces greenhouse gas emissions**

We can significantly improve recycling rates in Australia and be closer to what other countries achieve. This requires the Rudd government to legislate for new regulations that companies will object to. A Container Deposit/Refund scheme like that in South Australia, involves companies paying handling fees for their containers.

**3.** This system is the most successful, cheapest and simplest to legislate.

**4.** It is simple and allows community organizations a great means of fund raising revenue.

**5.** Drink containers are a very large part (at least 50%) of the waste that is disposed of in public places (food malls, street bins, car parks, parks, road sides), and of the waste that becomes litter. A simple deposit/ refund system like in South Australia will reduce waste that now goes to landfill but could be recycled.