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19 February 2008

The Hon Peter Garrett AM MP
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Garrett

The Council at its meeting on the 12 February 2008 considered a report on issues surrounding the use of Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) as a means of reducing litter and increasing recycling rates.

The report looked at the South Australia experience where CDL has been in existence for over three decades and the positive impacts it has had on the recycling of beverage containers and in reducing certain types of litter. This is highlighted in the areas of PET and Glass beverage containers where South Australia recycles 38% and 49% more than the national average.

Whilst the above positive aspects were welcomed, the report also acknowledged that there are costs associated with the operation of such a program and that it could be extended cover a wider range of recyclables other than just selected beverage containers. In addition, it was considered that to be truly effective any CDL system should be National and that it must integrate with the National Packaging Covenant and existing kerbside recycling services.

The Council after considering the report clearly believes that there are positives for Government, Community, Industry and the Environment from a broad based packaging/container recovery scheme that incorporates the combined benefits of Container Deposit Legislation, the National Packaging Covenant and kerbside recycling. A copy of the report is available on the Shire's web site at www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au.

A broad based Packaging and Recovery Scheme would reduce unsightly and dangerous litter in our environment, whilst at the same time increasing recycling, and save both energy and raw materials used in the production of packaging.

As Federal Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Council urges you to take positive steps to introduce a broad based national CDL system to work in conjunction with the existing National Packaging Covenant and kerbside recycling.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Simon Thomas, Director - Environment & Engineering on 9294 6353.

Yours sincerely

Cr Tim Heenan
Mayor