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

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Thank you for your letter of 1 April 2008, inviting submissions to the Inquiry into the Management of Australia's waste streams and the Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008.

The demographic position of the Northern Territory poses unique challenges when considering waste management, disposal behaviour and resource recovery issues. Approaches adopted in densely populated areas of Australia where waste management is big business, may not provide solutions for the Northern Territory. The constraints experienced by regional and remote areas such as distance and small population, have historically made recycling unviable. Nonetheless we are keen to promote resource recovery.

Currently, through the Re-Thinking Waste and Resource Efficiency Action Plan, the Northern Territory has provided support to establish two voluntary container deposit schemes in Alice Springs and the remote community of Lajamanu.

The Northern Territory Government believes that container deposit legislation would be best developed and applied at a national level. We are therefore actively participating in the Environment Protection and Heritage Council initiative, which is investigating the feasibility of a national container deposit scheme.

Yours sincerely

  
LEN KIELY

11 JUN 2008