

ARCHIVED CDS MEDIA RELEASES November 2004 - June 2015

**MEDIA RELEASE
9 JUNE 2015**

LNP GETS IT WRONG ON RUBBISH

Action on Queensland's growing rubbish problem is an important task that will benefit Queenslanders, jobs and the environment, environment groups said today, in response to statements by the LNP deriding Queensland government programs announced on World Oceans Day to combat plastic and drink container pollution.

Ian Kiernan, AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia said: "The LNP is talking rubbish because cleaning up the environment with a container deposit system will create hundreds of jobs and deliver millions of dollars to charities (who help the disadvantaged) as well as local sports clubs. We know Cash for Containers and plastic bag bans work – unlike the failed policies of the LNP when they were in government."

Jeff Angel, Convenor and Director of the Boomerang Alliance of 32 groups said: "The LNP needs to better inform itself. It seems to have swallowed beverage industry propaganda rather than take a reasoned and objective view. The facts are that a returnable deposit does not increase the cost of living and the recent government investigations found the financial cost on households to be zero. We would be happy to give the LNP the facts."

"Since the announcement by the government that it will be investigating a container deposit system to tackle the billions of drink containers littered or landfilled every year – the community support has been outstanding and our campaign is growing week by week across the state. The LNP is making themselves a target for community outrage."

Toby Hutcheon, for the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland said: "Taken together, a container deposit scheme and plastic bag ban will help stop Queensland becoming known as the rubbish state. It is the only state with increasing litter and declining recycling. If you want to maintain our treasured tourist reputation and jobs, you need a clean state. These programs work in SA without a cost of living burden."

* Deputy Opposition Leader, John-Paul Langbroek: 'the government should prioritise humans over environmental needs' in response to government announcements on CD and bags (Yahoo News, 8/6/15.)

Further information: Ian Kiernan, 0418 232288; Jeff Angel: 02 9211 5022, 0418 273773

Cash for Containers Scheme in Queensland a Step Closer

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 20 May 2015

Major environment groups including Clean Up, Boomerang Alliance, Greenpeace, Queensland Conservation Council and Wildlife Queensland today welcomed the announcement by the Queensland government that it will “examine what a container deposit scheme in the state could look like.”

This important step meets an election promise by the government. The move also allows the state to collaborate with NSW which plans to introduce a container deposit scheme in mid-2017.

‘Queensland is the most littered state in Australia with plastic bottles and plastic packaging representing the bulk of that litter. Recycling is also at a low ebb with the state missing out on significant employment creation opportunities,’ said Toby Hutcheon of the Boomerang Alliance, on behalf of the joint groups.

‘Litter, particularly plastics, is not only an eyesore it’s deadly to wildlife. Thousands of sea birds die in Queensland every year whilst studies show that 30% of all turtle mortalities in Moreton Bay are due to plastic ingestion. Queenslanders don’t want their state to be known as the ‘rubbish state’.

Recent studies, including an ARC Coral Reef Study in the GBR, show that microplastics are accumulating in the marine environment and entering the food chain. Corals have been found to ingest these microplastics and clog them up.

‘A *cash for containers* scheme that applies refundable deposits on all beverage containers is the proven approach to reducing beverage container litter with schemes in over 40 other jurisdictions around the world. ‘

‘In States such as South Australia, where a scheme has been in place for over 30 years, beverage container recycling rates are over 80% compared to Queensland’s less than 40%.’

A *cash for container* scheme will reduce litter management costs and, increase the value of kerbside collection materials for Councils; as well as providing a significant fundraising opportunity for community organisations that collect cans and bottles.

‘A container deposit system would create hundreds of jobs and substantial funds every year for charities and local clubs.’

‘A container refund scheme is also popular with the community. A recent Newspoll by Boomerang Alliance (Jan 2015) showed that 85% of Queenslanders supported a container deposit scheme.’ said Hutcheon.

An investigation into a scheme is the first step towards addressing Queensland rubbish problem. We urge the State to ramp up its efforts, work with NSW and set its sights on implementing a scheme in 2017.

The groups said they would be active in community discussion about a scheme and warned they would vigorously oppose any token industry alternatives like the bin network and ‘thirst for good’.

NSW decision on container deposits ‘ground breaking’

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 21 February 2015

The Baird government’s decision to proceed with a container deposits scheme (CDS) is ground breaking for cleaning up the state’s environment, funding charities and paving the way for other states to join, the Boomerang Alliance of 30 groups said today.

“The scheme will certainly work in stopping the littering and landfilling of billions of drink containers every year, but also be a great boon to the charity sector. We estimate at least \$65million a year will be earned by a variety of charities with a comprehensive CDS (see over). No industry alternative can match these achievements,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“The campaign has lasted for over ten years with an enormous effort by many groups and individuals. State and federal governments commissioned study after study; hundreds of thousands of emails and letters were sent to MPs; industry ran misleading fear campaigns spending millions of dollars; community clean-ups and actions continued; elections came and went – and community support for a CDS grew with the latest Newspoll (Jan/Feb 2015) showing 90% of NSW voters support the 10cent refundable deposit scheme.”

“The decision will take about two years to implement through consultation, design, passage of a law and installation of infrastructure – so the start date of 1 July 2017 is reasonable.”

“The Boomerang Alliance and the community of course will be watching very closely for any backflips. We encourage the beverage industry to adopt a pragmatic approach and work with us, local government and the community to have the best possible container deposit scheme,” Mr Angel said.

“We are also hopeful that other states will see the social, economic and environmental benefits and join in the NSW move.”

90% support for NSW Container Deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 24 January 2015

Newspoll has found that 90% of the community support the NSW government's decision to introduce a 10cent refundable deposit on drink bottles and cans.

"The result is testament to the strength of the community campaign and the failure of the beverage industry's misinformation efforts. While virtually all demographics were close to 90% support - the highest was among grocery buyers with children. NSW should move quickly to finalise design of the scheme so the state can reap the social, economic and environmental benefits," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 30 groups.

"This enormous level of support also has lessons for those states like Victoria and Queensland. Don't give into the scare campaigns nor believe the dodgy cost benefit studies. Container deposits are good public policy."

The question asked 16/18.01.15 (337 respondents)

D3 Thinking now about recycling and litter. **South Australia** currently has a deposit and refund scheme, where 10 cents is added to the cost of bottled and canned drinks. The 10 cents is **refunded**, when people return empty bottles and cans to recycling collection depots. The **New South Wales** government is set to introduce a container deposit system using reverse vending machines which automatically separate glass, metal and plastic containers and provide the deposit refund. Do you personally support or not support the **New South Wales** government's initiative to introduce this type of deposit and refund scheme for bottles and cans?

Our Queensland Election Waste Policy

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 21 January 2015

We have issued a [challenge](#) to parties and candidates to stop Queensland becoming the rubbish state.

[Print](#)

NSW to move on Container Deposits

Environment groups today welcomed moves by the NSW government to implement a 10cent deposit scheme on drink bottles and cans.

A report in today's Sun Herald* indicates the government will be moving to finalise the design of a scheme this year.

"We welcome the commitment to a cost effective and efficient scheme. It's been a long time coming after a ten year campaign. There's no doubt that NSW will benefit environmentally, economically and socially from the massive reduction in drink container litter; over 1,000 new jobs; new investment in the recycling industry worth hundreds of millions of dollars; and a big boost to charity income," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 32 groups.

“With the majority of the community supporting container deposits (84% in the last Newspoll), this decision will be long remembered as a pivotal moment in cleaning up our environment.”

“NSW can have a world leading scheme and we are ready to assist the government in delivering it.”

* <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/premier-mike-baird-pushes-cash-for-cans-scheme-to-clean-up-environment-20150103-12h1dd.html>

TAS container deposit decision short sighted

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 December 2014

The Tasmanian government’s decision to reject a container deposit system (CDS) is short sighted and will inevitably result in an ongoing serious litter problem polluting waterways and harming wildlife, said the Boomerang Alliance of 32 groups.

“These benefit cost studies overstate the costs and understate the benefits because they use a narrow methodology. But even then if you take the lower range of costs in the study, households would experience perhaps a cost of 19 cents a week – well worth the investment in a cleaner environment.” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

"The CDS would have created 300 jobs. For a government committed to job creation, it's a doubly poor decision."

“Given the extraordinary high level of public support for a container deposit system, the government could easily have won public support. Instead it has deliberately chosen to go down the path of more litter and a low recycling rate. The mickey mouse schemes being offered by industry won’t solve the problem. The CBA report finds that recycling will be stuck at 35%, while a CDS would raise it 78%.”

* TAS npv of \$2.4m/yr divided by 335mill drink containers consumed a year in TAS. 27 drink containers consumed a week per household (ACIL Tasman, 2012).

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Container deposit cost-benefit analysis, deeply flawed

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 December 2014

The Boomerang Alliance of 32 groups today rejected the results of the cost benefit analysis into container deposits as inflating the costs and minimising the benefits.

“The results are not surprising given the biased methodology used. Our campaign will continue as will the level of public support and demands on MPs for a cash for containers scheme,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

The major problems in the Packaging Impacts Decision Regulatory Impact Statement are :

- It admits a CDS can operate without passing costs onto the consumer, but ignores this in its recommendations
- Does not do a check on real consumer prices in South Australia v non-CD states (minimal difference bar the deposit despite inefficient SA CD system)
- Ignores new jobs
- Only uses benefits above existing container (and future business as usual) return rates but uploads all CD system costs for handling all containers (new and diverted from kerbside)
- Claims CD duplicates existing kerbside operations, when in fact CD upcycles by creating more value with cleaner material by avoiding contamination from co-mingled bins; and supporting new value-adding industry
- Ignores benefit from reduced resource use (and associated environmental benefits) from increased recycling
- Increases the deposit with inflation (and therefore the cost) contrary to experience in South Australia (only one increase in 25 years)
- Does not account for reducing cost of reverse vending machine technology (up to 24% reduction per container in last 5 years).

CASTLE HILL WANTS CONTAINERS DEPOSITS TO STOP THE LITTER

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 10 December 2014

With the NSW government about to make a decision on whether the state will have 10cent refundable deposits on drink bottles and cans, a street poll has shown very strong support in Castle Hill Electorate, NSW.

“Regular Newspolls have shown support in NSW at 84% but Castle Hill outstrips that with an amazing 95%. Clearly the local community wants a cash for containers scheme and expect Dominic Perrottet as Member for Castle Hill to support it. It would effectively reduce litter and improve our natural environment. It is a no-brainer really.” said Jeff Angel, National

Convenor of the [Boomerang Alliance](#) made up of 31 of Australia's leading community and [environment groups](#).

Three questions were asked*:

1. Would you support a 10¢ refundable deposit on bottle and cans to decrease litter and increase recycling, like in South Australia? **95% support**
2. Do you think Jai Rowell, Member for Wollondilly, should support a 10¢ refundable deposit on bottle and cans? **95% support**
2. Do you think the NSW Parliament should pass a law for a 10¢ refundable deposit on bottle and cans before the State election, in March 2105? **91.1% support**

“A decision by the NSW government to introduce container deposits will be one of the most popular moves taken in the last four years. The government needs to deliver what the community wants. There are enormous ongoing job, charity income, environmental and recycling benefits that cannot be matched by any other approach,” said Mr Angel.

On 10 December, 2014, we conducted an opinion poll in Castle Hill, NSW. We directly asked respondents the 3 questions noting yes/no responses, residency and gender.

Sample size : 202

106 females / 96 males

Castle Hill Electorate Resident/Non Castle Hill Electorate Resident: 153/49

Indice of confidence: 95%, Confidence interval: 3

NSW school adopts cash for containers ahead of government decision

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 December 2014

In the run-up to the NSW government’s decision on whether the state will have 10cent refundable deposits on drink bottles and cans, Lumen Christi Catholic College has taken effective recycling into its own hands and adopted it for themselves. Launched two weeks ago, the school’s 20c deposit on plastic milk bottles has been a success.

“Being only 800 metres from the beach, we need to permanently reduce the amount of plastic waste we produce,” said Martin McGee, Head of House and Year 7 teacher at Lumen Christi Catholic College. “If a container refund scheme were introduced, this would complete the puzzle,

incentivising our now more environmentally aware students to take their drink containers in, receive a refund, and hugely increase recycling to help our local environment. It is a win-win situation.”

“Both primary and secondary students are taking advantage of our new deposit system by collecting bottles at lunchtime, washing them out, and putting them in the recycling bin. The playground has never looked cleaner,” said McGee.

“Container deposits are important to me and my school because we live so close to the coast and waterways,” said Mia Dawson, a Year 10 student at Lumen Christi Catholic College who is championing container deposits at her school. “An unpolluted ocean is a rich source of life and learning. A clean ocean starts at home and in our communities, and our school is only one of many who support this. We need MP Constance to hear our collective voice.”

“The government needs to deliver what the community wants. Container deposits offer enormous ongoing job, charity income, environmental and recycling benefits that cannot be matched by any other approach,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of Boomerang Alliance, made up of 31 of Australia's leading community and environment groups. “With 84% support across NSW (Newspoll), and even higher support locally, the decision by the NSW government to introduce container deposits will be one of the most popular moves taken in the last four years.”

Last month, Boomerang Alliance conducted a recycling experiment in Littleton Gardens, Bega – with the support of Bega Valley Shire Council and attended by the general public and enthusiastic local students – which unequivocally demonstrated the effectiveness of a 10cent deposit. In the experiment, a pile of 200 empty drink containers was left for 30 minutes with a sign saying “Free – Take One”; during which time not a single container was taken. Upon changing the sign to “10 cents for every container collected,” offering a 10cent refund for each container - all containers were redeemed in less than 4 minutes.

Model and scientist Laura Wells calls on Premier Mike Baird to support Cash For Containers

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 December 2014

With the NSW government about to make a decision early next week on whether the state will have 10cent refundable deposits on drink bottles and cans, model and environmental scientist Laura Wells launched a [petition](#) asking Premier Mike Baird and Dominic Pettottet, Minister for Finance to support the scheme.

"We have all seen the litter. It's hard to miss. Running a beach clean-up group I know all too well that one of the main culprits are beverage containers. Every minute, Australians litter or throw into landfill, 15,000 bottles and cans! The most effective way to clean them up is to adopt a 10c

refundable deposit like in South Australia. What is Premier Mike Baird waiting for?" said Laura Wells.

The petition is trending and has reached 3,000 signatures in less than 3 days.

"We know the beverage industry, including Coke and Lion Nathan, is exerting tremendous pressure on the government to reject cash for containers. As predicted they are making threats - and we are making every effort to not only oppose them but bring this long running campaign to a successful conclusion." said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance made up of 31 of Australia's leading community and environment groups.

We expect a decision to be made by the NSW Government during the next few days.

Cash for Containers - Premier Mike Baird should stand up to corporate bullies

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 31 October 2014

Revelations that beverage companies threatened the O'Farrell Opposition in 2011 over a container deposit policy have triggered an angry campaign from environmental groups.

"We are launching the 'stand up to corporate bullies' campaign in the countdown to a NSW government decision on the drink container deposit scheme (CDS). The government has promised a decision before the end of this year and time is running out," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 30 groups.

Catherine Cusack, NSW Liberal MLC told parliament her party was threatened with a \$4 million attack ad campaign at the 2011 election when she tried to push for a container deposit scheme. The Liberals eventually dropped the policy. Cusack described the threat as 'disgraceful' and 'subverting the democratic process.'

"We agree and we are now awake to their bully tactics. Our campaign over coming weeks will greatly intensify. Premier Baird, Environment Minister Stokes and other ministers won't be able to escape it."

“The beverage industry tried to use similar tactics in the Northern Territory in 2011 when they threatened to help the then LCP Opposition to crush the ALP government’s move to legislate for the refundable 10 cent deposit on drink bottles and cans. However both parties stood up to the corporate bullies and the new law was passed unanimously.”

“This is what should happen in New South Wales. With over 84% of the community supporting a CDS (Newspoll, Nov 2013) they need to deliver what the community wants. There are enormous ongoing job, charity income and recycling benefits that cannot be matched by any other option,” said Mr Angel.

Drink Containers Top National Litter Index

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 29 August 2014

Plastic, metal and glass drink containers have topped the 2014 National Litter Index for the fourth year in a row, environmentalists revealed today.

“Strangely, Keep Australia Beautiful who commission the annual report did not mention this in their public statements. While their links to beverage companies are well known you would think even they could not miss this glaringly obvious result,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 31 groups.

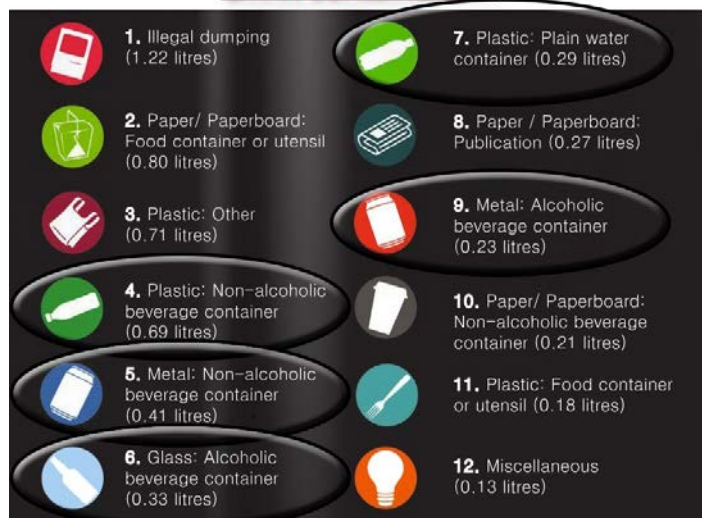
“Drink containers are measured by the volume of litter and the report shows they are worse than illegal dumping (see graphic below). Another measure used by KAB is the item count but this is next to useless because it treats a drink container as equal to a cigarette butt. The item count does not tell you about the quantity of resources wasted, environmental impact, nor the visibility and aesthetic impact of litter.”

“It’s likely KAB does not want to draw attention to the obvious solution to drink container litter – a 10cent refundable deposit scheme – that has been successful in over 40 other places around the world. We know Coke, a major funder of KAB, opposes a container deposit scheme.”

“Such a scheme is the only sustainable solution to the 8 billion drink containers landfilled or littered every year in Australia. It also provides significant co-benefits such as new jobs and charity income.”

"We also call on governments to stop funding KAB's Litter Index and ensure a more objective analysis," Mr Angel said.

Keep Australia Beautiful - National Litter Index 2013/2014
The National Dirty Dozen - volume per 1000m²
Drink containers: #1



According to the Daily Telegraph a container deposit scheme for bottles and packaged drinks “could cost consumers \$8 billion a year” (14/7/14)

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 30 July 2014

Hard to believe such a large figure?

You would be right because it is not true.

We have spoken to a number of experts and jurisdictions about container deposit systems (CDS) and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) that is utilised in the Packaging Decision Regulatory Impact Statement (PDRIS), from which this figure is claimed to be sourced:

1. The cost-benefit analysis in the PDRIS is over 20 years - not one year. The figure could be an 'assumed cost' (over 20 years) without the benefits deducted - falsifying the essential purpose of a CBA. Further the CBA is not restricted to consumer costs and includes questionable numbers such as 'participation costs'.
2. It can't be over one year as that translates into 62 cents for every drink* - not only ridiculous but it is also triple the discredited^ and exaggerated '20 cents' per drink (or \$300 per household pa) number frequently alleged by the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC).
3. If (for a moment) you accepted the \$8billion figure (over 20 years), the cost per drink is 3 cents (again contradicting the AFGC).#

Doesn't make any sense.

What is clear is that the Daily Telegraph and the AFGC are wrong.

We and industry experts estimate the proposed efficient and convenient CDS would cost closer to zero per drink. The cost-benefit result is also likely to be favourable if (as in other product stewardship RISs), the public's valuation of an improved environment, is included.

The DT article and the nonsense from the industry lobby have enraged our supporter base - now over one million. I can assure you they have only caused an intensification of our campaign. Further they do not accept the installation of public space bins as an effective alternative to a CDS due to contamination, cost to local councils to service the bins and their impracticality of stopping most litter across the landscape.

The AFGC are desperate and the Daily Telegraph has even less credibility. They fail to acknowledge the significant range of benefits a container deposit system will deliver.

* \$8billion divided by 13billion drinks sold pa.

^ see 2012 Senate Inquiry into SA and NT schemes

\$400m pa divided by 13billion drinks sold

Central Coast MPs support Cash for Containers

[Print](#)

Details

Published: 03 June 2014

Created: 03 June 2014

Environment groups representing nearly one million supporters today congratulated Gosford MP Chris Holstein and Swansea MP Garry Edwards – whose coastal constituencies are forced to deal with the millions of drink containers that end up in their waterways each year – for their position on a 10 cent refund scheme for drink bottles and cans.

“We know there is tremendous local support for this proven scheme to rid our streets, parks and streams of this mounting rubbish,” said Ian Kiernan, AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia. “We’ll be communicating Holstein’s and Edwards’ positions to our many volunteers and followers.”

"After listening to the community for 20 years in Council, I understand the importance of kerbside recycling," said Gosford MP Chris Holstein. "I am open to all alternative to keep our communities clean, including container deposit legislation."

“As the member of Parliament for one of the most pristine electorates in NSW I take great exception to people, be they locals or tourists, showing a total disregard for our environment,” said Swansea MP Garry Edwards. “If a container deposit scheme will assist in reducing the harm to our natural environment then I would be obliged to support such a scheme.”

“There’s no doubt the NSW Central Coast will benefit not just environmentally but also economically with new jobs and recycling facilities; and socially with a great new avenue for charities to raise income. Local councils will also see financial gains from less expensive kerbside collections and lower litter management costs. With most NSW MPs now behind this, are we finally going to get a decision from government?” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 28 environment groups.

Call to Action Campaign on Cash for Containers Launched

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 May 2014

Environment groups representing almost one million supporters today launched the Call to Action for Cash for Containers at the polluted and littered Cooks River, just a few hours before the first Community Cabinet meeting of the Baird government, nearby.

“Governments including NSW have been examining a 10cent refund scheme for bottles and cans for over 10 years. Our supporters are sick of waiting and it’s time for the government to stand up and be counted. NSW is the state that can break the deadlock. We should introduce the scheme with Victoria. Silence is not an option,” said Ian Kiernan, AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia.

“Culminating on 5 June, World Environment Day, we will be holding rolling events outside key electoral offices over the next few weeks, informing voters what’s at stake. We call on the Baird government to support Cash for Containers in NSW.”

“During this decade bottles and cans have steadily increased within the rubbish count reported by Clean Up Australia Day volunteers. They have now become the major item group removed on Clean Up Day; and we estimate over 25 billion drink containers have been landfilled or littered in NSW over this period,” said Mr Kiernan.”

“The NSW government should ignore lobbying by Coca Cola and its allies and its greenwash money for more bins. The NSW government needs to support the community,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 28 environment groups.

“The public has seen through industry lies with support for our campaign growing to now 84% [\[1\]](#) wanting a container deposit scheme,” he said.

[\[1\]](#) Newspoll, November 2013

[Print](#)

East Hills MP, Glenn Brookes supports Cash for Containers

Environment groups representing almost one million supporters today congratulated Glenn Brookes for his position on a 10 cent refund scheme for drink bottles and cans.

“We know there is lots of local support for this proven scheme to rid our streets, parks and streams of this mounting rubbish. We’ll be communicating Glenn Brookes’ position to our volunteers and followers, ” said Ian Kiernan, AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia.

"Growing up as a kid, we used to collect bottles and cans to make a bit of pocket money. Cash for containers is not just for kids and people out of work, it's for all of us. A container deposit is a great way for people and community groups to come together to raise money for the things they want and to protect the environment,” said Glenn Brookes, Member for East Hills.

“There’s no doubt the East Hills area will benefit not just environmentally but also economically with new jobs and recycling facilities; and socially with a great new avenue for charities to raise income. Local councils will also see financial gains from less expensive kerbside collections and lower litter management costs,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 28 environment groups.

Public thirst for Cash for Containers leads governments into voter danger

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 30 April 2014

The Boomerang Alliance, a coalition of 28 environment groups, says the continued lack of action at a national or state level on cash for containers after a meeting of environment ministers yesterday, is setting the scene for a 'Fail' come election time in Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

Mr Reece Turner Senior Campaigner at Greenpeace Australia Pacific said, "The governments including the new NSW Premier have missed a golden opportunity to satisfy the 84 per cent of voters who support a 10 cent bottle and can recycling scheme.

"There will be no votes in making Coca Cola Amatil happy. Their arguments against a scheme which has been successful in over 40 jurisdictions around the world are unfounded and fabricated."

Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance and CEO of the Total Environment Centre Mr Jeff Angel said, "People around Australia are sick of waiting for this proven cure for the plastic bottles and cans they see littering their streets, parks, rivers and beaches. It affects all people of all ages and political persuasion.

"The recent Northern Territory cash for containers scheme, which Coke and Lion fought in court, is becoming a great success. The latest figures show a 45 per cent return rate of bottles and cans, thirteen times higher from the 3.5% return rate prior to the scheme's establishment.

"The Northern Territory scheme has stimulated the opening of a major bulk reverse vending machine depot, particularly aimed at the poorly performing commercial and hotel sector. This facility is receiving approximately 200,000 beverage containers a day. New sustainable jobs have been created."

Chairman of Clean Up Australia and former Australian of the Year Mr Ian Kiernan AO said, "By introducing this simple but effective scheme we could double recycling rates across the country, as seen in South Australia which has had the scheme for more than three decades and boasts a recycling rate of over 85 per cent. States like Queensland which have a dreadful litter record and policies to match, would see a big improvement.

"By turning our back on the initiative governments are turning their back on the environment, local councils, 3000 new jobs and the many community groups like scouts which could make cash from recycling."

Brewer of the Year backs deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 April 2014

Australia's Brewer of the Year, Murray's Beers has come out in support of container deposits.

[MEDIA RELEASE](#)

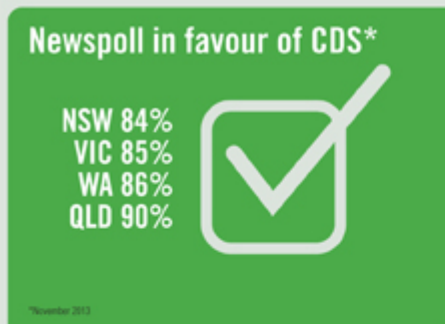
CD Costs and Benefits - the real story

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 09 April 2014

New [infographic!](#) [pdf]

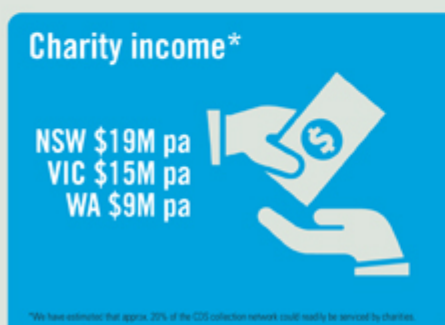


Costs and Benefits of a Container Deposit System: the real story

Cost-benefit studies are a narrow approach to assessing new environmental policies and often exaggerate the costs. For example the Commonwealth Regulatory Impact Statement CBA methodology excludes employment growth and other significant co-benefits.

It does however include hundreds of millions of dollars of 'participation' costs by consumers (which should instead be regarded as a positive 'willingness to participate' number).

The full range of social, environmental and economic benefits from an assured and sustainable 80% recycling of drink containers, must be considered by governments because that's how the public evaluate new policy.



www.boomerangalliance.org.au



FACT CHECK - beverage industry claims

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 10 February 2014

'Threat to kerbside operations.'

The last six independent reports to federal and state governments (the most recent from Tasmania) have found a net financial gain taking account of reduced material in kerbside; and savings in collection costs (reduced fuel, truck use, landfill levies); and deposit revenue from containers left in kerbside [details available on request].

'It's a tax'

A refundable deposit is not a tax on any legal or technical basis; nor has the claim gained traction in the community. The operation of the South Australian system is well known as are people's memories of previous deposit systems. This is also shown in our tracking of community opinion by Newspoll, which shows growing support over the last 2.5 years, now nationally at 84% and as high as 90% in some states. We also correlated support by respondents having 'seen/heard' the recent 'tax' claim cross media advertising by the industry. Newspoll reported the difference was statistically insignificant.

'\$300 a year increase in household grocery bills'.

This is incorrect because the study by ACIL Tasman upon which it is based wrongly assumes no one redeems their deposit. Similar systems (eg, SA) show an 80% return rate so obviously customers discount the deposit in their purchase decision (neither are the other 20% concerned about the deposit). Also the 10 cent handling fee in the calculation is extraordinarily high and was based on an AFGC survey in the NT which was described by the 2012 Senate Inquiry into the SA and NT CDS as having 'weak methodology and poor data'. In fact price surveys showed extensive discounting, much lower handling fees (continuing to go down as the NT CDS matures), and even use of unredeemed deposits to defray the entire extra cost.

NT slump in bottle and can collection caused by the Coke, Lion bastardry

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 December 2013

The reported slump* in drink container recycling under the Northern Territory cash for containers scheme is entirely due to the spoiler tactics of the big beverage companies who run the scheme, environmentalists said today.

"It's part of their ongoing campaign against 10 cent refund schemes. The NT government's report makes it clear that the "decline is likely to be attributed to the temporary closure of some Collection Depots across the Territory on 14 August 2013 reducing access to the scheme." (CDS July-Sept Report p3). The depots closed because Coke, Lion and others refused terms to keep the depots open and insisted on inefficient 20+ brand splits," said Jeff Angel, Covenor of the Alliance of 27 groups.

"On the other hand depots and efficient reverse vending machines supported by CUB and others who aren't campaigning against a CDS, remain open."

Ian Kiernan, AO, Chairman of CleanUp Australia said: “The finger is pointing at Coke, Lion and Schweppes which have funded an ongoing campaign of misinformation; and manipulated the NT scheme for their own political purposes.”

“We call on governments to finally stand up for what the community wants – a 10 cent refundable deposit on drink bottles and cans. It’s the only sure way of cleaning up the environment and growing jobs in the recycling sector. ”

“The Boomerang Alliance is proposing a modern, efficient and low cost system that won’t repeat the mistake of putting the bottlers in charge; and will use reverse vending machines and avoid brand splits. It’s currently under consideration by governments,” Mr Angel said.

* of 10%

Napthine container deposits COAG move welcomed

[Print](#)

Details

Published: 29 November 2013

Created: 29 November 2013

The move by Victorian Premier Denis Napthine to seek a national consensus on a 10cent refundable deposit on drink containers at the 13 December COAG meeting was welcomed today, as the most recent Newspoll showed 85% support by Australians.

“The public battle has been well and truly won – it’s now time for our leaders to agree to implement an efficient, least cost and convenient container deposits scheme (CDS). Premier Napthine’s commitment to take it to COAG is a stunning break in the inertia that has characterised this issue for the last 10 years,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“We particularly urge the NSW Premier to get on board. Along with the sensible people in the beverage industry we can all work constructively together to ensure an efficient and least cost CDS that delivers multiple economic, social, employment and environmental benefits worth hundreds of millions of dollars a year.”

Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman of CleanUp Australia said: “Once a government moves on introducing a CDS it will then find hundreds of thousands of people willing to defend it against the ill-informed attacks by the beverage industry. I can assure the Premier and other heads of state, we will be out there making sure the public knows this is a great policy for the environment and the economy.”

Jeff Angel said the claims of a \$300 impost on households had been proven to be completely wrong. “It won’t happen because of the absurd assumptions that no-one will redeem the 10cent deposit and crazy high handling fees. We estimate based on real CDS operations which are efficient that there will be no extra handling fee on the price of drinks.”

“With two weeks to go for a possible national decision our campaign will go into overdrive. Of course if there is no national decision we will continue to harness the incredible support in the community to obtain state schemes.”

Container Deposits will boost WA economy

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 31 October 2013

A new report on the impact of a container deposit system (CDS) on Western Australia shows multiple economic and social benefits, not provided by any other recycling scheme currently being examined by Australia’s environment ministers – who will meet in a few weeks to make a decision.

“WA will get more jobs, a viable recycling industry and reduced costs for local councils,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 27 groups.

The benefits, many of which are not included in the cost-benefit review used by government officials, are:

- 659 new jobs
- \$4m of private investment
- \$34.3m pa kerbside collection savings to local government
- \$9m pa to community service groups
- \$5m pa litter management savings
- \$20.7m pa growth in local recycling collection and transport businesses
- \$2.1m pa incentives paid to retail sector

“With over 87% of West Australians supporting a 10 cent refundable deposit on drink containers* and the state having high litter and low recycling rates – now is

the time to act. If a national CDS is not going to eventuate soon - the state should join a cash for containers precinct with SA and NT.”

* Newspoll Dec 12/Jan 13

Local kids show how 10 cents can clean up the Central Coast

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 28 October 2013

Local kids provided a convincing demonstration of how a 10 cent refund on bottles and cans could significantly reduce litter on the Central Coast on 26 October, 2013.

Students and staff from the International Football School and Kariong Scouts will collect empty bottles at Bluetongue Central Coast Stadium after Saturday night's game between the Central Coast Mariners and Adelaide United.

They will be given 10 cents for each bottle by Gosford Council in support of the Boomerang Alliance of community and environment groups campaign for the introduction of a 10 cent refund on beverage containers to double recycling rates and reduce litter.

“Every year across Australia 8 billion bottles and cans are thrown away either into landfill or on our beaches, parks, rivers and roads,” Boomerang Alliance spokesperson Lisa Wriley said.

“A 10 cent refund on bottles and cans would clean up our environment, help protect marine animals from plastic rubbish and provide local sports clubs, schools and charity groups with a new way to raise money. The Scouts in South Australia run nine collection depots and raise \$2 million a year.”

Gosford Mayor, Central Coast Mariners Official Ambassador and foundation Head Coach of the Mariners, Lawrie McKinna said: “a 10 cent refund on containers is a win win for the environment and for rate payers, with less litter and council saving money on recycling and clean up costs”.

NSW councils could save up to \$63 million a year with a container refund scheme, according to a study by Local Government NSW.

“It's very appropriate that this recycling event is occurring for the match against

Adelaide because South Australia has had refunds on bottles and cans for more than 30 years and has a recycling rate double the rest of Australia,” said Mayor McKinna.

“It’s time NSW lifted its game on recycling by introducing a 10 cent refund on bottles and cans.”

International Football School Chief Executive Officer Paul Chapman said:
"Ensuring we create a sustainable planet for generations to come is a fundamental part of the education we offer our students.

“We are very proud to be part of the "Cash for Containers" campaign because we know it will keep unwanted waste out of landfill, waterways and the streets of Gosford. We look forward to helping out at the Mariners game this Saturday and turning rubbish into community money!"

Kariong Scouts leader Ron Dilger said: “The Scouting movement places a high importance on teaching environmental values and taking action to help the community. So, doing something like this reinforces both messages. We hope it’s not long till we have a national Container Deposit System so that collecting bottles and cans becomes a regular fundraising opportunity.”

Time for the Drinks Industry to Do the Right Thing

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 01 October 2013

The non-profit organisation ‘Keep Australia Beautiful’ has been outed for doing the bidding of beverage giants in revelations it has been lobbying NSW MPs alongside Coca-Cola to kill off proposals for a Cash for Containers recycling scheme.

A national alliance of community and environment groups today called on the big drink companies - Coca Cola, Schweppes and Lion - to cease their aggressive campaign against the national introduction of refunds on bottles and cans.

Earlier this year the big drink companies mounted a legal challenge to the Northern Territory’s successful cash for containers scheme which has seen recycling rates more than triple in less than 18 months.

“In South Australia, a refund on bottles and cans resulted in cleaner beaches, parks and rivers with a recycling rate double the rest of Australia,” said Dave West from

the Boomerang Alliance. “The NT scheme has also seen remarkable results and we think this system should be rolled out nationally.”

CSIRO scientist, Dr Chris Wilcox, analysed litter data collected by Clean Up Australia in 2012 at 715 sites across Australia. He found that if you pick up an item of litter in NSW it is four times more likely to be a beverage container than in South Australia.

Greenpeace campaigner Reece Turner said: “The NSW government is a key player in paving the way for a national scheme. MPs should listen to the 84 per cent of the Australians who want a container deposit scheme, not pander to corporate interests represented by Keep Australia Beautiful.”

A newspaper report today revealed that Keep Australia Beautiful, which runs anti-litter education programs like Tidy Towns, is being funded by the drink companies and joined Coca-Cola in lobbying NSW MPs against the introduction of a refund on bottles and cans.

In Australia, drink companies such as Coca Cola, Schweppes and Lion, produce a staggering 15 billion bottles and cans every year but less than half get recycled.

“A 10 cent refund on bottles and cans would clean up our environment, help protect marine animals from plastic rubbish and provide local football clubs and charity groups with a new way to raise money,” said Turner.

Councils across Australia could save up to \$183 million a year (including \$62 million in NSW) on recycling costs if a cash for containers scheme was introduced, according to a study by the Local Government NSW.

The Boomerang Alliance has 27 member groups across Australia including the Total Environment Centre, Clean Up Australia, Local Government NSW, Greenpeace, WWF, ACF, Environment Victoria, Environment Tasmania and the Conservation Councils of Queensland, S.A. and W.A.

KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL LITTER REPORT AND STRATEGY FAILING

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 August 2013

Environmentalists today released the '[What a Waste](#)' report calling for more effective action on and measurement of litter, at the start of Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) week.

“We think the KAB exercise has stalled and its National Litter Index lacks credibility for some key issues such as comparing between states and actual litter counts. Our report shows that of the 20 NSW sites we inspected none came close to the so-called average claimed by KAB’s National Litter Index (NLI). The Victorian government’s annual litter report also shows much more average litter per site. (1) Australia needs some new weapons in its arsenal and it needs a better way to measure litter,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 27 groups.

“In terms of litter size and embodied resources, bottles and cans are by far the worst problem, with plastic bottles becoming a bigger issue each year. The only proven solution is a container deposit scheme, which removes drink containers from the litter stream and improves public space bin volume – helping solve two major problems.”

“Keep Australia Beautiful should be supporting a 10cent deposit/refund scheme for drink containers as part of an improved anti-litter regime. Notably the volume of beverage containers in Northern Territory litter has halved, because of its 10cent refund scheme.”

“The NLI is suspect as a measure of litter because it can’t tell you if a site has been cleaned up before inspection; gives no picture of behavioral issues; does not examine hot spots; is not adjusted for the different populations in each state; nor can you confidently compare between states.”(2)

“Its data has also been misused by the packaging industry and government to give the impression that litter is under control.”

“For example, they try to say a cigarette butt is the same as a plastic bottle in an item count to diminish the drink container issue. But clearly bottles and cans have a much bigger volume and represent a very significant wastage of resources.”

“There’s a lot more to do,” Mr Angel said.

(1) Vic – 41 per 48sqm; KAB – 56 per 1,000sqm

(2) 2012 Victorian Litter Report. Sustainability Victoria: “Litter counts are a useful but not reliable outcome measure as they can be influenced by a range of factors including the number of people in public places at given times, the number of people littering and levels of maintenance and clean - up schedules. It is important to note that litter counts may vary with the adequacy of litter containment, timing of the survey litter counts (in particular in relation to clean - up schedules) and

weather conditions such as wind and rain.”

KAB NLI Report 2012/13: The National Litter Index is not a study of littering behaviour. It is exclusively intended as an assessment of the presence of litter objects within surveyed regions. As such, no corrections for population densities are carried out. The information derived from the Index provides no indication of whether residents of a particular region litter more or less frequently than those in a different region. It does, however, provide insight regarding (a) the relative presence or absence of litter objects and particular material types within the regions surveyed, and (b) result trends over time. As such, findings are considered to be broadly but tentatively standardised to regions of a similar type.”

Coke delivered \$6M invoice for court challenge to NT container deposit scheme

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 16 August 2013

Coca-Cola Amatil was today hand-delivered a giant, mock \$6 million invoice representing the amount paid by the Northern Territory government to keep the cash for containers scheme operative after Coke, Lion Nathan and Schweppes successfully challenged it in the Federal Court in February.

Representatives of the Total Environment Centre, Clean Up Australia and Greenpeace delivered the invoice to the company’s North Sydney headquarters. The Northern Territory government’s support ensured the recycling of about 18 million drink containers instead of them going to landfill or being littered.

“Last week the Northern Territory container deposit scheme got back on track after all states and territories united to close the loophole created by Coke’s federal court challenge. It’s only fair Coke and its allies now repay the costs that were forced onto Northern Territory taxpayers,” said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia.

“The success of the Northern Territory scheme is beyond doubt, with recycling rates trebling to 67 per cent during its first year of operation, stimulating new investment and jobs,” Mr Kiernan said.

As a result of the Federal Court decision the Northern Territory government was forced to financially support the cash for containers scheme and pay the 10 cent deposit at a cost of \$1 million a month, after beverage companies stopped supporting the scheme.

“Recent polls show an overwhelming public thirst for a national roll out of the cash for containers scheme yet the beverage industry remains in overdrive, doing everything it can to frustrate it,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“The Boomerang Alliance is currently stepping up our campaign. This week posters calling for a container deposit scheme began to appear on the back of Sydney buses. We are also talking directly to NSW MPs with parliament now sitting,” Mr Angel said.

“With every state except Queensland not opposing a national cash for containers scheme, the spotlight is now on NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell and Victorian Premier Denis Napthine to embrace what 84 per cent of Australians say they want,” said Ben Pearson Head of Campaigns for Greenpeace Australia Pacific.

Later this year state and federal governments are expected to decide whether to introduce a national cash for containers scheme.

Container Deposits Message - on the buses!

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 13 August 2013



Fifty buses in Sydney and Melbourne have begun carrying the call for a 10cent refundable deposit on drink bottles and cans to tackle the ‘15,000 drink containers being thrown away every minute’ in Australia.

“As we near the final stage of a decision in this long running controversy we are ever mindful that the beverage industry will throw all its resources to stop a container deposit system. We are receiving enormous support from the public and donors and will be engaging in a very intensive campaign in coming months,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 27 environment groups.

“The cost of living and tax claims of the Food and Grocery Council are spurious but that won’t stop them. We will be taking every opportunity to make our voice heard and speak to the public, backbenchers and ministers. The real cost of not acting is ongoing litter and wastage of resources; and lost employment, business and charity opportunities.”

Victory for NT over Coke on recycling

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 06 August 2013

Sydney, 7 Aug 2013: Environment and community groups from around Australia today congratulated the Northern Territory, state and federal governments for working together to reinstate the Northern Territory’s successful cash for containers program, after Coca Cola, Lion and Schweppes took it to court and won last year.

National convenor for the Boomerang Alliance of 27 environment groups, Jeff Angel said: “It’s now time for state and federal governments to stand up to Coke and the big drink companies by introducing a cash for containers scheme nationally or at individual state level. There is enormous public support.”

“This is a great victory for the Northern Territory government and community and means drink companies like Coca Cola and Schweppes, can no longer leave the multi-million bill for collecting litter and recycling their containers to taxpayers, councils and local communities,” said Greenpeace Communications Manager James Lorenz.

Clean Up Australia Chairman and founder Ian Kiernan AO said a national container deposit scheme would double Australia’s recycling rate and clean up our beaches, rivers and parks.

“Beverage related rubbish makes up around 40 per cent of rubbish removed by our volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day,” said Mr Kiernan.

In order to void the Coca Cola court win the Federal Executive Council (ExCo) ratified an arrangement on Monday that made the Northern Territory cash for containers scheme exempt from the operation of the Commonwealth’s Mutual Recognition Act. This involved every State and Territory and lastly the Commonwealth gazetting a regulation under that Act.

In the year since the Northern Territory's 10 cent deposit on bottles and cans began operating it has trebled recycling rates to 67 per cent. It has also brought new investment and jobs.

The Northern Territory joined South Australia which has had a cash refund on bottles and cans for 30 years and has an 83% recycling rate, double the national average.

Every year in Australia 8 billion bottles and cans are littered or go to landfill.

Local councils across Australia could save up to \$183 million per year in recycling costs if a national cash for containers scheme was introduced, according to a study by the Local Government NSW.

The recycling industry says a national cash for containers scheme would bring \$500 million in investment and 3,500 new jobs.

Petition to the NSW Parliament

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 31 July 2013

If we get 10,000 signatures we can trigger a debate in the NSW Parliament about container deposits. Thanks to all those people who have already sent their petitions in. The new date for receipt is 29 August, 2013.

Download the petition form [here](#). The Parliament does not recognise digital, so we need you to return the hard copies (see address on the petition).

Thanks!

KAB NSW Bin Plan Rejected

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 July 2013

The Boomerang Alliance has rejected the NSW Bin Network Rollout Plan from Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) presented to MPs as an alternative to Container Deposits. Our [critique](#).

"It's a tokensitic, short term ploy to distract MPs from the real solution - a container deposit system. KAB gets a lot of funding from Coca Cola and this has clearly clouded their thinking," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor.

"The Alliance also welcomes the [statement](#) from councils and community groups along the Cooks River supporting CD. The river is targeted by KAB in its plan for anti-litter activity - but it's really offensive because it suggests locals are doing little or nothing to look after the river. But in fact the problem is so bad despite clean up efforts and public education, that only a CD system will make substantial inroads."

"CDS is an essential component in any anti-litter strategy," Mr Angel said.

Container Deposits hit Martin Place

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 July 2013

Environment groups have set up a Reverse Vending Machine in Martin Place today and are giving out 10cent refunds for drink containers to demonstrate how a container deposit system (CDS) could work in Australia.

"A key feature of our proposed modern, convenient and efficient CDS involves reverse vending machines which are extensively used in Europe. They swallow the drink container; check its barcode and separate into the type of material; and then return the deposit by way of voucher or direct deposit. Because it is so automated, it's cheap and convenient to run," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 27 groups.

See [Youtube video](#) (75secs) of RVM operating in Darwin for its Cash for Container scheme.

"We are proposing they are sited in the carpark of shopping centres so they can become part of the normal shopping trip for people. Retailers also like them because they attract customers. It's a win-win for the environment, consumers and shop owners."

"Our proposal is one of the main options being considered by environment ministers for a decision this year. We need effective and sustainable action by Australian governments to get on top of the problem of 8 billion cans and bottles being landfilled or littered every year," Mr Angel said.

Container Deposits - Food and Grocery Council claims not credible

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 July 2013

Claims that a container deposit system (CDS) would cost jobs in regional NSW, including Tamworth, Dubbo, Bathurst and regions have been found to be untrue by a unanimous report from an Australian Senate investigation, the Boomerang Alliance said today.

“In late 2012 the Senate undertook an investigation into the container deposit schemes in SA and NT and found the AFGC claims about price increases and consequent lost sales and jobs were based on ‘weak methodology and poor data’ (p20). The AFGC may want to recycle its untrue claims but it has been rejected by all political parties and the Senate research,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“The AFGC are running a scare campaign on empty – no-one believes it. Their research made the ludicrous assumption that all beverage prices would rise by 20cents – when this never happened in the SA or NT. And it certainly won’t occur under the modern, efficient and least cost container deposit system currently being considered by Australia’s environment ministers. They also fail to acknowledge that there is a 10cent refundable deposit.”

“The disproved claims by the AFGC are being trotted out because they are worried that the community and government MPs are coming round to strongly support container deposits. The claims have been around for over a year and have had plenty of ventilation and discussion but have not reduced public support – in fact it has increased as shown in the latest Newspoll (6/17 June) where 86% of people on NSW want a CDS. They know a CDS will make a massive difference to litter in the countryside,” Mr Angel said.

Newspoll: Australians overwhelmingly back 10cent refunds on bottles and cans

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 21 June 2013

Newspoll has revealed that 84% of people living in NSW, Victoria and Queensland support the introduction of a 10c container deposits scheme (CDS).

The Newspoll was commissioned by Greenpeace and the Boomerang Alliance who declared the level of support had created an unstoppable momentum that governments would ignore at their peril. State and federal governments will soon receive a new economic report and decide on whether Australia will have a national CDS.

NSW had the highest level of support at 86%, with Queensland at 85% and Victoria, 81%. In all cases the level of support in regional areas was higher than in the capital city – regional Queenslanders were outstanding with 92% support.

This poll is a timely reminder to politicians that Australians want a ‘Cash for Containers’ recycling scheme. With state leaders due to make a decision any time in the next few weeks, this poll should send a clear message that we had enough of trash polluting our parks and waterways.

With this level of public support it’s perhaps not surprising that representatives of the Food and Grocery Council are resorting to dirty tactics by using the emails of small businesses to send opposing letters to MPs - without their permission (as reported in the Sunday Herald Sun 16/6/13, p23). We’ve also assessed the industry alternative to a CDS – and it doesn’t work.

Australians use about 15 billion drinks containers a year and 8 billion are landfilled or littered. Clean Up Australia estimates that 45% of the rubbish collected every Clean Up Australia Day is beverage industry-related. The waste is particularly devastating for Australian marine birds.

In addition to South Australia and the Northern Territory, CD schemes are successfully running in over 40 locations around the globe. The scheme being proposed by the Boomerang Alliance is based on best practice efficient, low cost and convenience features that will lead to no extra charge to consumers who recycle.

Cash-for-Containers has been operating for over 35 years in South Australia. As a result, recycling rates there are double those around rest of the country, at no cost to the consumer. This polling shows Australians have seen through the industry fear campaigns and are backing a practical low-cost way to beat the scourge of plastic pollution.

VICTORIAN ACTION ON CONTAINER DEPOSITS - PRESSURE NOW ON FOR A NATIONAL SCHEME

[Print](#)

[Details](#)

Created: 05 June 2013

“Premier Napthine’s support for a 10cent cash for containers scheme is welcome implementation of an election promise and will be incredibly popular with the community. It will be good for jobs, recycling and the environment,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“I predict a great wave of support for the Premier’s stand.”

“The decision immediately pulls into focus the never ending process of studies that have occurred for 5 years. It’s time for a decision. Every year that passes, 8 billion drink containers are littered or landfilled in Australia. The problem can be sorted with a modern, efficient, low cost container deposit scheme that won’t affect the price of drinks for people who recycle.”

“We completely reject the cost of living claims by the Australian Food and Grocery Council – they are fantasy.”

“The government’s support should be a warning to the beverage and packaging industry that the obstructive tactics of Coca Cola and the Food and Grocery Council aren’t working,” said Mr Angel.

“We remain ready to work with industry and government for the best possible system that delivers convenience and least cost.”

IT’S OFFICIAL – CONTAINER DEPOSITS HELP COUNCIL KERBSIDE ECONOMICS

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 02 June 2013

As environment ministers await the final economic analysis on a national container deposit system(CDS) – a just released study has confirmed significant savings for local councils.*

“Some members of the beverage and packaging industry have attempted a scare campaign saying that councils will be disadvantaged by a CDS. However this latest study* backs up the findings of the last 5 government-initiated reports – local councils will benefit by reduced collection costs. As well there is a significant increase in value of remnant material in kerbside because the bottles and cans each have a 10cent deposit,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“The study has important implications for the economic work being done for environment ministers who will soon decide whether to adopt a CDS.”

“It calls into question the findings of a recent report by the Equilibrium group for Sustainability Victoria**, that claimed some metro councils would be financially disadvantaged by a CDS. This study stated there could be no change in collection costs. However the new data clearly shows this is wrong. It also omitted payments to MRFs made under the Boomerang model.”

“Controversially, the Equilibrium report failed to include savings in sorting and processing in its primary findings – strangely, an appendix in this report did calculate such savings and found local councils would save a net \$4.59 million per year!”

“The beverage industry and their allies should stop disseminating misleading or incomplete analysis. The demand for a national CDS will not go away with such studies and the more there is a delay in a decision - the more industry will face the risk of multiple state based schemes as Tasmanian now looks like being the next state to go it alone.”

* The study by Anne Prince Consultants (2012) shows that the absence of glass bottles in kerbside due to a CDS allows improved compaction rates and less transport and labour costs without adversely affecting resource recovery.

‘Optimum Compaction Rate for Kerbside Recyclables’

**Equilibrium (2012), ‘The financial impacts of Container Deposit Legislation to local governments in Victoria’

Key Points for Lobbying

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 28 May 2013

- It is not a tax. It’s a fully refundable 10 cent deposit returned to consumers when they give back their used bottles and cans for recycling. And overhead costs in a modern scheme are more than paid for by unredeemed deposits and the sale of the recycled materials.
- Councils and taxpayers will save money. An independent study for the NSW Local Government Association (2012) has shown that councils could be \$183 million better off under a national Cash for Containers scheme. That means more money for other council services.
- Recycling rates will rise. Cash for Container schemes lead to rates of recycling of 80-95% and above. South Australia’s rate is near twice that of the rest of the country. No other recycling system around the world is proven to achieve this.
- Litter and plastic pollution will fall. Groups like Clean Up Australia who are dedicated to cleaning up litter have repeatedly seen that litter rates of bottles and cans are much, much lower in South Australia. This includes less

rubbish on our beaches which ends up in our oceans and killing seabirds and marine animals.

- Not all industry is opposed. Coca-Cola and its industry group the Australian Food and Grocery Council are vocal in their opposition to Cash for Containers. But other beverage companies have actively supported the scheme in South Australia and Northern Territory, including companies like Fosters and Diageo.
- It would be a massive boost for the recycling industry. Recycling companies expect to invest \$500 million dollars and create 3,000 jobs in Australia if Cash for Containers goes national.

Information slides [here](#).

Environment groups hail Tasmanian container deposit study

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 23 May 2013

The Boomerang Alliance of 27 national environment groups today welcomed the decision by the Tasmanian government to move to the next stage of implementing a state based container deposit scheme.

The Tasmanian state budget has allocated \$50,000 for a cost benefit analysis of a container deposit scheme in the state.

“This is great news. Previous research has found there would be \$15M of private sector investment and an estimated 300 jobs generated by a container deposit scheme in Tasmania. With the massive public support for a CDS - there should be no barriers to Tasmania being the next jurisdiction after South Australia and the Northern Territory to adopt a 10cent deposit refund on cans and bottles”, said Rob Kelman, Campaign Manager, Boomerang Alliance

“The Tasmanian parliament across all three parties supports this scheme as a practical environmental action, as do over 80% of the community.”

“We will continue to work on other states for the adoption of a national container deposit scheme or alternatively state-based schemes - and Tasmania’s announcement today helps this process”, said Kelman.

“Coca Cola and its dwindling band of allies will cry foul and make all sorts of legal threats and ridiculous claims about the end of the world from a deposit

scheme but the reality is plastic drink containers are now an ecological disaster killing seabirds and other marine life.”

“Only a deposit scheme can guarantee 80%+ recycling of cans and bottles and virtually eradicate these items from the litter stream and lay the basis for a profitable recycling industry”, said Kelman.

Report on Darling Harbour Litter

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 30 April 2013

Our [report](#) on the litter situation in the popular CBD tourist precinct of Darling Harbour.

Government threatens Darling Harbor cleanup team with arrest

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 26 April 2013

As the sun rose this morning, activists from the Boomerang Alliance attempted to seize the Cockle Bay end of Darling Harbour and erect a giant litter trap. They had previously identified the iconic bay and foreshore as a NSW rubbish blackspot.

The campaign team was approached by rangers shortly before 7am and threatened with arrest by the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA). The rangers confirmed, however, that litter is a problem in the Cockle Bay area and that complaints from the public and tenants occur.

“The Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority is sweeping its rubbish problem under the pier. Rather than shut down our clean-up they should gratefully accept our help to put a stop to the atrocious mess they are making,” said Boomerang Alliance National Policy Director, Dave West.

The action continued with a land and water-based guerrilla clean-up of the popular tourist and entertainment precinct. The Boomerang Alliance investigation of the site revealed that the primary causes of the litter blackspot are:

- The lack of an effective litter management plan;
- Poor practices by tenants who need binding green waste management rules;
- Failure to clean up after evening use;
- Overflowing litter bins;
- Ineffectively guarded stormwater drains.

“Our next step,” said Boomerang Alliance convenor, Jeff Angel, “will be to present SHFA with a proposal to address the problem. An important component of the BA solution is a container deposit refund system. Darling Harbour is an ideal site for refund/recycling machines. The instant refund would provide an incentive for people to deliver their drink containers to the machines, rather than leaving them in garden beds, on seats or in overflowing bins from whence they inevitably blow into the water.”

“This is not a new problem. Plainly the SHFA and the O’Farrell Government are failing in their responsibility to manage litter and to manage the Harbour and foreshore environment. The recent government announcement of a waste strategy has offered only piecemeal band-aids. A permanent, effective solution is required to address the drink container litter, not only in Darling Harbour, but state-wide. That solution is a container deposit system.”

CONTAINER DEPOSITS IN TASMANIA WILL SAVE RECYCLING

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 24 April 2013

A national or state based 10cent container deposit scheme could save Tasmanian recycling, according to the Boomerang Alliance of 27 state and national environment groups.

“It was reported this week that kerbside recycling faces stiff challenges with the ongoing problem of freight costs out of Tasmania. In particular, Veolia and their council customers face unsustainable cost increases that may force council rates to rise,” said Robbie Kelman, Campaign Manager, Boomerang Alliance.

“A 10cent refund on bottles and cans would change that by accessing additional funds and improving the value of the material collected..

Minister Wightman along with other state, territory and federal environment ministers are currently considering options for used packaging recovery and

recycling including the Boomerang Alliance container deposit (CD) model. They are due to make a decision within the next 1-2 months.

“A Tasmanian government report has found a CD scheme would attract \$15m in private sector investment in recycling infrastructure, with recycling companies greceiving a 3-4cent fee for each container they process at their depots or collection centres. This takes the financial burden of recycling bottles and cans away from local councils and ratepayers,” said Kelman.

The Boomerang Alliance national CD model also importantly includes two key provisions as outlined in current advice to Ministers. These are:

- *A \$1 billion reprocessing bounty (\$50 million per year for 20 years) to stimulate the domestic reprocessing industry ...*
- *A \$646 million rural waste and recycling rebate (\$32.3 million per year for 20 years) to support the provision of waste and recycling services by local governments across rural Australia.*

Tasmanian recyclers could therefore access – simply assuming a per-capita split of funds – around \$2m per year to help subsidise their recycling activities.

“Tasmania should now commit to going it alone on a CD scheme if other states refuse to back a national scheme by June,” said Kelman.

“Tasmanian’s want to recycle and don’t need to be sluggish with more rates to do so.”

“A CD scheme also guarantees much higher prices for the recycled material collected because it is clean and pre-sorted further supporting the economics of recycling in Tasmania. For example:

- Glass processing in Tasmania currently costs Veolia around \$1/2m a year whereas used glass from South Australia’s container deposit scheme is currently being bought by glass bottle manufacturers for over \$100 a tonne
- Mixed plastics out of Tasmania receives around \$400 a tonne but pre-sorted PET from SA generates between \$650-\$750 a tonne.”

“The Tasmanian government is sitting on its hands waiting for something to happen on waste and recycling, defying the notion of being a clean/ green state. There remains no waste levy and therefore little incentive for people to avoid simply landfilling used resources. We should be building an economy around the limited resources we have not just throwing them in a pit,” said Kelman.

COCA COLA DEFEATED IN NT RECYCLING FIGHT

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 April 2013

Environmentalists today welcomed the support of Premiers and assurances made by the Federal Government to the Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles to pass regulations so that the NT's Cash for Containers scheme will continue.

"Today's decision marks a turning point in the battle for a national 10cent deposit/refund scheme because it demonstrates bipartisan political support is possible; rejection of the feeble industry alternative of bins and litter advertising; and last but not least, that once introduced - container deposit schemes are incredibly popular with the community," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 27 groups.

On the same day a petition seeking a national container deposit scheme supported by 68,000 people was handed to the office of the NSW Premier.

"The NT Government is to be congratulated for standing up to Coke and defending a scheme that has doubled bottle and can recycling rates in just 12 months. Now that it is free from legal attack, the government, community and the recycling industry can focus on improving its efficiency and effectiveness."

"Our message to the other states which are considering their own or a national deposit/refund program is – the community wants you to represent them, not Coca Cola. Ever since Coke (temporarily) won their court case, the company has become a political pariah and has been shown to engage in misinformation and bullying tactics. Australians don't like their governments doing the bidding of such corporations and want real solutions to the 8 billion bottles and cans landfilled or littered every year," Mr Angel said.

PLAN FOR MORE BINS RUBBISHED

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 18 April 2013

Environmentalists today expressed concern about the appalling amount of rubbish in Australia's parks and waterways, despite outstanding efforts by Councils to tackle the problem.

The Kicking the Can tour has visited Parramatta, Bankstown, Botany Bay, Darling Harbor, Bondi Beach and Cooks River over the past week and believe there is strong evidence that Councils are unable to control our waste problem without the

container deposits system that is currently under investigation by a state and commonwealth taskforce.

Dave West, national policy director for Boomerang Alliance says that more bins are not the answer.

New South Wales Government seems obsessed with a cosmetic mentality to the problem of rubbish. It doesn't seem to matter how many garbage bins are out there, without an incentive, rubbish persists and the problem is going to get worse as beverage consumption grows with population," he said.

"Councils are spending millions of dollars to address the mountains of trash in Australia, but without a systematic proven solution, like container deposits, their efforts are largely futile," said West.

"On Sunday we were at Bondi Beach which is almost wall-to-wall bins but in a 30 minute clean-up we collected hundreds of beverage containers. In Parramatta Mall we saw the bins full to overflowing by noon."

During the first seven days of the Boomerang Alliance 'Kicking the Can' campaign the team was shocked to discover the following:

- Bankstown Northern Plaza and the surrounding area were filthy. 24 containers were collected in a car park in just two minutes.
- 50% of the garbage bins lining Darling Harbour were overflowing, two were actually on fire.
- Despite the 120 bins lining Bondi Beach we still found 8700 bottles and cans in six 30 minute clean-ups.
- Of the two litter traps we inspected along the Cooks River, one was broken and clogged with debris. In the second trap, storm water outflow had pushed all the bottles and cans out into the waterway; and upstream in Canterbury thousands of containers were caught in the mangroves.
- At Tamarama Gully, despite the pristine state of the adjacent beach and parkland, our team discovered that the waterway was clogged with containers, many of which could be dated to show they had polluted our environment for more than 25 years.

"The beverage industry's so called National Bin Network is a joke. It's time for the New South Wales Government to recognise that these overly simplistic plans are little more than greenwash" said Dave West.

QLD Fast Food Recycling – a drop in the bucket

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 18 April 2013

The announcement by Environment Minister, Andrew Powell of a policy of recycling bins in KFC and other fast food outlets is a miniscule contribution to the state's serious waste and litter problem and an excuse to avoid real solutions, said the Boomerang Alliance of 27 national and state environment groups today.

"At best the state will see a few thousand tonnes of KFC packaging diverted from landfill. The Minister claims up to 12,500 tonnes of fast food packaging could be reduced with a bigger rollout – but this fades into insignificance (3%) when you look at the scale of the problem. 330,000 tonnes of packaging (of which 113,000 are beverage containers) goes to landfill or litter each year in Queensland," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

"A real solution for beverage containers - a 10cent container deposit system - will recover an extra 70,000 tonnes of bottles and cans a year. Nor will litter be solved with KFC or other fast food outlet bins – the litter occurs when the products are taken away from these sites."

"Dolling out little bits of money here and there is trivial. Under this government's policies Queenslanders will continue to see disgusting litter on their beaches and in rivers and parks. "

"An efficient national container deposit scheme could be established and be cost neutral for consumers. 80% of the Qld electorate supports the introduction of such a scheme (Newspoll 2012) but the Newman government is just not listening," Mr Angel said.

Litter Corridor Busted!

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 16 April 2013

"The Cooks River is one of the most polluted waterways in Australia but local councils and local communities are working hard to bring the river back to life," claims Canterbury Mayor Brian Robson.

"Pick any spot along this important waterway and you'll quickly realise the positive impact that a container deposit system would have on our battle against pollution in the Cooks River.

"Now is the time for real action to finally put a stop to the huge numbers of drink containers that pollute the river and its environs."

The Boomerang Alliance, community groups and local government will tomorrow appeal to Environment Minister Tony Burke to finalise the last in a long line of studies on a national container deposit system.

"Tony Burke has said lots of positive things about plastics pollution and cleaning up the river — he has even volunteered for clean-up days himself — but after nearly three years as minister, this river is still a terrible mess," says Jeff Angel. "The only solution is a national container deposit system."

Community groups estimate that they pull around 15,000 beverage containers out of the river each year! Yet still this vast corridor of bottles and cans remains. Mayor Robson and Jeff Angel will be joined by the community clean-up groups, working both on foot and in kayaks.

Victorian Premier Leads on Litter Fight

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 April 2013

Twenty-seven national and state environment groups today congratulated the Victorian Premier, Denis Napthine on his support for a national container deposit system (CDS).

"We know Victorians want to protect their environment. After many years of trying various programs and seeing only small improvements, the task of littered or landfilled beverage containers remains so great that something substantial must be done. The clear answer is a container deposit system, which, as the Premier rightly observes, has made a massive difference in South Australia," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

"We estimate that up to 2.5billion bottles and cans are wasted every year in Victoria. There are significant costs on councils and ratepayers to landfill them or undertake litter programs. A modern, efficient and low-cost CDS would save major costs and not have to rely on government or industry funding."

According to CSIRO scientists and Clean Up Australia Day data, a container deposit system would also eliminate the vast majority of drink containers that litter Victoria's waterways and beaches, endangering wildlife and ultimately flowing out to sea. Around one-third of total marine debris can be traced back to the beverage industry.

The long-winded process for a national decision on a CDS is now drawing to a close and the statement by the Premier should help to bring this marathon process to a successful conclusion. We note that the nation's environment ministers announced yesterday they wanted a decision 'as soon as possible'. We will be working as hard as possible and more to ensure that the voices of the 80%+ of Australians who have expressed support for a CDS are heard."

COKE'S STALLING TACTICS FAIL Container Deposit Decision ASAP!

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 April 2013

The announcement by Federal and State environment ministers that they would deal with the final assessment of a container deposit system "as soon as possible" is a slap in the face to Coca Cola's efforts to put the process in an endless holding pattern in the hope it would fall out of the sky.

"Coca-Cola and its allies have tried to kill off the prospect of a national container deposit system by urging governments to defer further work on this issue into the never-never," said the Boomerang Alliance's National Convenor, Jeff Angel.

"The ministers have realised that the Australian landscape and recycling industry can't afford 15,000 bottles and cans being landfilled or littered every minute."

"We are hopeful," he added, "that a bipartisan position is being developed and that this crucial issue will not become a political football. It's too important for the future of recycling and the health of our environment."

Angel was not surprised by today's revelation by CSIRO researchers that the big states like Victoria and NSW have up to four times more bottles and cans in their litter stream than South Australia, where a container deposit system operates. This is further proof," he said, "that we must move urgently on this issue."

The Boomerang Alliance urges the pragmatic and more balanced members of the beverage industry to join in the implementation of a modern, efficient and low-cost

container deposit system that will deliver benefits for local councils, the community, the economy and the environment.

Containers Clogging Up Burke's Backyard

[Print](#)

Details

Published: 10 April 2013

Created: 10 April 2013

The Kicking the Can campaign team today travelled by boat up the Cook's River with 20 representatives of community groups, local government and parliamentarians. They saw first hand the horrific amount of litter pouring into this iconic waterway from suburbs in the Sydney electorate of Watson, held by Federal Environment Minister, Tony Burke.

Greens Senator, Peter Whish Wilson, who was on board the expedition, said: "If Tony Burke could have seen what we saw today, he would be truly appalled and disgusted by the amount of bottle and can rubbish in his own backyard. But he has the power to stand up to Coke and co and fix this problem once and for all with a container deposit system."

"It would be a proud legacy for Tony Burke to give Australia a national container deposit system that delivers jobs, investment and environmental outcomes. Australians would thank him for it, and I would be the first to call and congratulate him."

Tim Silverwood, co-founder of Take 3, who was also onboard, explained that, "the plastic we saw today travels from the streets and parks of the environment minister's electorate, into the Cook's River and then on to Botany Bay and out to sea. It will remain in the world's oceans for hundreds of years. And marine debris accounts for the death of over one million seabirds and over 100,000 marine mammals every year."

"We inspected two different types of litter traps today — one so choked as to be ineffective and the other that had missed catching any litter at all. No other system, including traps and bins, can address an issue as profligate as beverage container litter. The only systematic, nationwide approach that has been successful elsewhere is container deposits."

Australian environment ministers from all states meet tomorrow in Auckland and will discuss container deposit systems. The Boomerang Alliance's policy advisor, Dave West, says that, "The time has come for them to stop

‘kicking the can’ on this issue and make a firm commitment to introduce a national container deposit system.”

West called on concerned members of the community to visit the Kicking the Can website at www.kickingthecan.org.au and add their voices to the 300,000 Australians who have already called for a national container deposit system.

Coke's black day in the Territory

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 18 March 2013

On the day that Coca Cola stops its involvement with the Northern Territory cash for containers scheme the Boomerang Alliance of 26 environment groups urged the NT government not to be bullied by Coca Cola and stick with the popular scheme.

“Despite requests from the NT government for beverage producers to retain the scheme on a voluntary basis while the permanent exemption is obtained, Coca Cola is from today dumping its involvement in the best recycling scheme the NT could have”, said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance

“Our most recent Newspan in the NT showed 80% support for a container deposit scheme. Despite the obvious ‘start-up’ problems, the doubling of recycling rates over 12 months in the NT is impressive.”

“As Coke dumps the scheme millions of cans and bottles will now again be dumped in landfill, rivers and roadsides throughout the NT and small family run recycling businesses will become unviable and be forced to sack their staff”, said Angel.

“This is corporate thuggery of the highest order and while it has presented complications for the Territory government we are urging it to find solutions for the community, charity groups, small businesses and the environment. Coca Cola and its small band of supporters can’t be allowed to win.”

“Not all drink companies are acting in this way and we salute Fosters and Diageo as responsible corporate citizens for continuing to play a constructive role in a process that has been difficult.”

“It is our understanding that all state and territory governments have agreed to grant the NT scheme a permanent exemption from the mutual recognition provisions that the judge found were incompatible with Cash for Containers. We were pleased also that Liberal, Labor and the Greens all united in the federal parliament last week to pass a motion supporting the NT”, said Angel.

SENATE SUPPORT FOR NT CASH FOR CONTAINERS SCHEME - A BREAKTHROUGH

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 13 March 2013

Today's unanimous vote (motion below) in the Senate to support continued operation of the Northern Territory's Cash for Containers program is a welcome breakthrough, after the court win by Coke 2 weeks ago, said the Boomerang Alliance.

"Coke's action in the court was deplorable and has led to widespread community outrage. The vote today in the Senate is an appropriate reflection of that and the fact that no other scheme could have achieved recycling and litter reductions to the tune of 54million beverage containers in just one year," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

"We understand that moves to reinstate the NT scheme are going well at COAG level."

"The Boomerang Alliance's 24 national and state environment groups; many, many people in the community; and particularly Territorians will appreciate today's vote by the MPs. Despite all the misleading statements from the Food and Grocery Council, Coke and other bottlers – once a scheme begins and people see the environmental, economic and charity benefits – it's a popular winner."

"Coke's actions have put local businesses and jobs at risk and if the scheme ceases, the litter will just start building up again along the roads, in creeks, bushland and the ocean."

"Australia landfills or litters about 8 billion beverage containers a year or 15,000 a minute. The only effective and financially viable solution is a 10cent refund (CDS). In a few months' time state and federal governments and members of the packaging and beverage industry are going to have to decide if they support a national CDS or Coke. We remain open to discussing the best approach to a CDS with all parties," Mr Angel said.

Peter Whish Wilson (Greens) moved that -

1. The Senate notes:

a)The recent Federal Court decision in the Coca-Cola Amatil (Aust) Pty Ltd v Northern Territory of Australia [2013] ruled that the Northern Territory container deposit scheme was invalid; and

b)That some beverage companies have announced that they will cease to provide container deposit refunds under the scheme.

2. The Senate calls on all Australian governments to work together to expedite consideration of any application made by the Northern Territory Government for an exemption to the Mutual Recognition Act 1992, to support the continuation of the Northern Territory Container Deposit Scheme.

COKE'S STALLING TACTICS FAIL Container Deposit Decision ASAP!

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 April 2013

The announcement by Federal and State environment ministers that they would deal with the final assessment of a container deposit system "as soon as possible" is a slap in the face to Coca Cola's efforts to put the process in an endless holding pattern in the hope it would fall out of the sky.

"Coca-Cola and its allies have tried to kill off the prospect of a national container deposit system by urging governments to defer further work on this issue into the never-never," said the Boomerang Alliance's National Convenor, Jeff Angel.

"The ministers have realised that the Australian landscape and recycling industry can't afford 15,000 bottles and cans being landfilled or littered every minute."

"We are hopeful," he added, "that a bipartisan position is being developed and that this crucial issue will not become a political football. It's too important for the future of recycling and the health of our environment."

Angel was not surprised by today's revelation by CSIRO researchers that the big states like Victoria and NSW have up to four times more bottles and cans in their litter stream than South Australia, where a container deposit system operates. This is further proof," he said, "that we must move urgently on this issue."

The Boomerang Alliance urges the pragmatic and more balanced members of the beverage industry to join in the implementation of a modern, efficient and low-cost container deposit system that will deliver benefits for local councils, the community, the economy and the environment.

FOOD AND GROCERY COUNCIL NT SCHEME – a poisoned chalice

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 06 March 2013

Today's proposal from the Food and Grocery Council for recycling and litter in the Territory is a 'PR joke' said the Boomerang Alliance.

"We've seen this before – the industry comes in, throws some money around for a few years and then leaves with all the ongoing costs having to be met by councils and government. It's also a token gesture that could not achieve the levels of container recycling already produced by Cash for Containers (35million containers); nor does it have sufficient reach for other litter and recycling," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of Boomerang.

"Without the financial incentive of a 10cent deposit the container litter will continue unabated across the vast range of the Territory. The so-called bin network is only in concentrated areas such as shopping centres and entertainment venues – which are not the sources of dispersed litter. Why pay community groups to pick up litter when the Cash for Containers scheme has an inbuilt incentive?"

"Voluntary drop-off facilities are another weak element. This was tried years ago in the eastern states and was an abysmal failure. Territorians should have an effective, efficient and financially viable system for a range of recyclables – not old style industry gestures."

Coke's hollow victory

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 04 March 2013

Coca-Cola has won the latest round in its war against effective recycling of beverage containers, but it's only a temporary victory, Boomerang said today.

"By taking the government of the Northern Territory to court to stop the container deposit scheme, a scheme that the vast majority of Australians want, Coca-Cola

hasn't won anything but an ideological point," said Boomerang's National Convenor, Jeff Angel.

"The Northern Territory government has already moved to reinstate the scheme via an agreement with all states and territories.

"13,000 beverage containers go to landfill every minute!" said Mr Angel. "This is a massive waste of costly resources, including petroleum.

"Coca-Cola is also contributing the majority of containers in the growing stream of plastic marine debris which is killing birds and other sea creatures.

"Australians know this and they want it to stop. Coke is courting a consumer revolt if it continues to intimidate Australians with these bully-boy tactics," Mr Angel said.

Coke chokes on its own litter

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 04 March 2013

Eight policemen threatened to arrest eight bags of Coca Cola plastic bottle litter and three mild mannered gentlemen from the respectable end of the environment movement, outside the office of Coca Cola Amatil in Sydney this morning, said Boomerang Alliance, today.

One of our most admired Australians, Ian Kiernan, accompanied by Jeff Angel from TEC and the Boomerang Alliance, and David Ritter, CEO of Greenpeace, were told they would be charged with littering and unlawful assembly if they attempted to enter the Coke building to deliver the Coke litter collected on Clean Up Day and speak to Coke executives about a container deposit scheme (CDS).

"This is on the same day that the Federal Court is due to hand down its decision on Coke legal action against the Northern Territory's CDS," said Mr Angel.

"Clearly Coca-Cola is afraid of us and the massive consumer backlash which its opposition to a CDS has produced in recent weeks."

"It's really time for state and federal governments to support this simple and effective recycling scheme which could create hundreds of jobs, conserve resources and reduce plastic pollution killing marine wildlife."

Coca Cola – how much worse can it get?

[Print](#)

Details

Published: 18 February 2013

Created: 18 February 2013

Today's Greenpeace action against Coca Cola is another escalation in the battle against a company that supports mickey mouse anti-litter schemes and opposes effective programs like the Northern Territory's cash for containers. Coke will be going to the Federal Court tomorrow to stop the NT scheme.

"Coca Cola is now notorious in Australia for being the driving force behind misleading public and political campaigns against the only proven solution for drink container waste, recycling and litter. If they win their court case to declare the NT scheme invalid then the Territory will again be landfilling or littering millions of beverage containers as well throwing dozens of people out of a job," said Jeff Angel, Convenor Boomerang Alliance of environment groups.

"An efficient container deposits system with a 10cent recycle refund can be designed to be totally cost neutral. Coca Cola may promise that if they win the court case then drink prices will drop – but if they had the real interests of Territorians at heart then they would run their NT operations far more efficiently and low cost – achieving both no drink price impacts and massive gains in litter reduction and recycling," said Angel.

"We note that many small and large bottlers like Fosters and Diageo have not joined the court case and question why government still seems to listen to Coke. Coke and its allies do not represent a commonsense position."

"Some of Coca Cola's brands like Mt Franklin also sell themselves on being healthy alternatives but consumers are now realising that these drinks present a massive environmental problem with up to 85% of Australian seabirds now impacted by the plastics from these and other discarded containers."

QLD councils and ratepayers dumped with costs of industry bins scheme

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 05 February 2013

Queensland local councils and ratepayers face up to an average \$61 million a year in additional costs and charges with the Qld government endorsing a drinks industry recycling con job, said Jeff Angel, National Convenor Boomerang Alliance.

“It could be as high as \$195 million pa. The state government and councils need to take a serious look at what they are getting into. According to the report by Mike Ritchie and Associates, while some drink producers will fund the placement of bins these companies are expecting local councils and ratepayers to cover the daily costs of collection, transportation and processing of this often highly contaminated material.”

“The Boomerang Alliance is instead proposing a no net cost solution which is a modern, efficient and low cost 10cent per container deposit scheme. The deposit scheme approach is hugely successful in South Australia and throughout the world with over 80% recycling and the virtual eradication of littering of cans and bottles. And there won’t be any extra consumer impost (beyond the redeemable deposit) in our proposal”.

“There is also no evidence anywhere in the world that this drinks industry scheme of more bins does much at all for litter and will only marginally increase recycling. The pollution of the local and marine environment will continue, damaging pristine tourist assets and killing wildlife.”

“We are urging local councils to lobby their association and the state government to avoid having the massive and ongoing financial liability of more public place recycling bins placed upon them and instead support a modern and efficient 10cent deposit model”, said Mr Angel.

WA Worst for Litter and Recycling: National Report

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 05 February 2013

The Boomerang Alliance has today released a new [report](#) showing that Western Australia has the worst rate of waste per capita and the lowest recycling rate in the country, and called on the next Western Australian Government to remedy the situation by adopting a ten cent recycle refund on bottles and cans, which will build recycling infrastructure across the state.

Jeff Angel of the Boomerang Alliance will be in Western Australia on the 4th of February to present the report to members of Parliament. The report shows that Western Australian’s generate more than 500kgs of waste per capita above the national average, but has a recycling rate 39% lower than the national average.

Keep Australia Beautiful statistics included in the report also show an increase in the volume of litter in Western Australia between 2011 and 2012.

“Our analysis of Government data shows that Western Australia is by a long way the worst state in Australia for both litter and recycling,” said Mr Angel, “we urge all the parties in the election to commit to a container deposits pathway which will establish

over 180 new recycling stations including 50 that will take a variety of materials, not just beverage containers. A modern system will be self funding and won't cost government or ratepayers extra."

Ten cent recycle refunds have also been shown to dramatically reduce litter and increase recycling rates. After a refund was introduced in the Northern Territory in January 2012, Keep Australia Beautiful recorded a 44% drop in litter within six months.

"Introducing a recycle refund would have an almost instant effect on the volume of litter," said Mr Angel, "Western Australian's could expect to see half as much litter within months."

The study also includes a recent newspoll that shows a ten cent recycle refund is popular amongst Western Australian's, with 9 out of 10 people supporting the introduction of a refund scheme.

"The popularity of a recycle refund will be instrumental in it's success. People want it, so people will use it," said Mr Angel.

"Both sides of politics need to commit to a recycle refund now, every year that is wasted means hundreds of millions of containers that should have been recycled end up in landfill or on WA beaches, streets and parks."

Other findings of the report include:

- Support for a recycle refund has increased from 85.4% in 2012 to 88% in 2013
- 86.5% of the Western Australian's would be willing to pay an extra 10c a can to support a recycle refund
- 28.5% of the WA population has no access to municipal recycling services
- A recycle refund would help reduce greenhouse gases and support local and regional jobs.

Coca-Cola anti-environment campaign goes to court

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 20 December 2012

This morning Coca-Cola Amatil, owners of Mount Franklin, Fanta and Coke products, will launch an effort through the Federal Court in Sydney to try and destroy the recycling industry in the Northern Territory, said Jeff Angel, Convenor Boomerang Alliance.

"Mt Franklin and other littered plastic drink containers, lids, etc are responsible for 30-50% of all marine plastic pollution, according to the CSIRO. The only global

schemes that can deal with this scourge are deposit schemes such as those already successfully operating in the NT and South Australia.

“Meanwhile, Coca-Cola’s fanaticism sees it fighting governments in court to overturn these proven recycling schemes.”

The case will be heard again on February 19 next year, allowing the NT Solicitor-General to appear.

“Coca-Cola’s anti-environmentalism is dragging the rest of the sector into the reputational gutter and we urge more responsible drink producers to reject Coke’s opposition to sensible incentive-based environmental initiatives,” said Mr Angel.

“The Federal government must back the NT government against Coca-Cola. Preferably they should fast track exemption from federal mutual recognition legislation or better still pass federal legislation validating the recycle refund scheme with efficiency improvements. This would provide industry with the ‘certainty’ they suggest they require and benefit consumers,” said Mr Angel.

“The Boomerang Alliance will over the summer be informing consumers of Mt Franklin and other drinks of the anti-environmental tactics of beverage companies.”

Coca-Cola attempts to shut down recycling

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 14 December 2012

Coca-Cola is taking a legal case against the Northern Territory cash for containers scheme, which is the only comprehensive recycling and litter reduction scheme that really works, said Jeff Angel, Convenor Boomerang Alliance.

“Mt Franklin (owned by Coca-Cola) and other plastic water bottles make up between 30-50% of all marine plastic pollution which kills marine wildlife, according to the CSIRO.”

“The beverage industry led by Coca-Cola is now a pariah industry, opposing sensible incentive based environmental initiatives.”

“Coke was accused by the previous NT Chief Minister of running a ‘misleading’ political campaign, with millions of dollars spent on radio and newspaper ads and lobbying. Coke continually tries to menace governments”, said Angel.

“The Federal government must back the NT government against Coca-Cola. They should immediately lock the NT CD scheme into the federal mutual recognition legislation.”

“The Federal government has been sitting on its hands. To allow this legal case to happen is a failure of their governance of state and territory environmental protections.”

“The NT LNP government is to be commended for their determination to defend the NT cash for containers scheme and fight Coca-Cola in the courts.”

“A recent opinion poll in South Australia showed continuing and enormous (98%) support for that state’s CD scheme. SA achieves the highest recycling rates for plastics bottles of over 80% while the rest of the country languishes at around 30%.”

“We urge all state environment ministers not to be threatened by Coke’s anti-environmentalism and support the NT government by backing a national CD scheme”, said Angel.

Container deposits schemes to be protected from beverage industry profiteering

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 22 November 2012

Claims by the Food and Grocery Council that beverage prices have risen dramatically as a result of container deposit schemes have been found to be based on ‘weak methodology and poor data’ by a Senate Inquiry, today.

It also supported calls by environment groups for action by the Federal, South Australian and Northern Territory governments to prevent the risk of consumer and manufacturer rip-offs under container deposit schemes (CDS).

“The big beverage companies like Coca Cola, Lion and Schweppes run the SA and NT schemes and it became very apparent during the inquiry that they did not support transparency on their prices. But this is an environment protection program intended to benefit the public – not the private profits of the companies,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor, Boomerang Alliance.

“Coca Cola, Lion and Schweppes through the AFGC have been running a misleading fear campaign about big price rises, to deter environment ministers

introducing a national CDS – but the evidence from the AFGC itself and the Inquiry’s findings shows key parts of the Food and Grocery Council campaign were based on weak evidence – in fact retail prices are often lower than the hyper-claims of the AFGC.” **

“We know other companies are not inflating wholesale prices and are doing the right thing by using unredeemed deposits (amounting to millions of dollars) to cover the cost of the CDS in the NT,” said Angel.

“We are proposing a modern and efficient national CDS that will cost consumers who redeem their deposit nothing at all and massively benefit the environment, eradicating container litter, helping charities and supporting the establishment of hundreds of drop-off recycling centres for a range of products, in addition to beverage containers.”

“Our scheme is based on existing best practice worldwide (not the old style SA/NT system) and is currently being assessed by the country’s environment ministers,” Mr Angel said.

** The AFGC have released 2 reports by ACIL Tasman (2011, 2012) showing household budget and job impacts based on a uniform price rise of 20 cents and 26 cents for all beverages. This has now been proven conclusively wrong.

Senate Inquiry hears more beverage industry profiteering allegations

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 06 November 2012

Environment groups today presented further [information](#) on alleged profiteering by beverage companies under container deposit schemes, at the Senate Inquiry in Adelaide.

“Coke, Lion and Schweppes have a case to answer and the Senate Inquiry will be calling them to account. Industry submissions contain a lot of vague excuses for high wholesale prices but they have not presented any concrete evidence or financial records. We’ve surveyed the retailers in the NT and got actual data – and the results confirm our first report released in August and which gave rise to this Senate Inquiry,” said Dave West, National Policy Director for Boomerang.

“The Food and Grocery Council’s case against a national container deposits system is based on the assumption that the highest prices in the NT will occur

nationally. However it is becoming increasingly clear that these prices where they exist are artificially high because certain companies are not reinvesting the millions of dollars of unredeemed deposits and unused handling fees. Instead they are keeping them as profit.”

“In a further blow to the AFGC’s assertions about household budget impacts based on the assumption that all beverage prices will rise by 20cents - industry submissions to the Inquiry now admit that actual consumer prices are often much lower. We have also found evidence that some bottlers (eg, Fosters, Coopers) are playing fair and aren’t passing on expensive gross costs. This means that the AFGC’s extravagant claims are complete nonsense.”

“The Boomerang model for a modern, low cost and efficient CDS is currently being assessed by environment ministers. It won’t have the potential to be rorted by the beverage companies and will not impact on consumers who redeem their deposit,” Mr West said.

Our full submission (and by other parties) to the Senate Inquiry can be found [here](#)

[Print](#)

SAMPLE MEDIA RELEASE for your local paper

CDS makes Cents!

Local residents (insert your names) **delivered litter to the office of** (*insert local members name*) **to highlight the need for a 10 c refundable deposit on bottles and cans.**

They are calling on (*local member*) to support a state-based Container Deposit System.

(Your name) said that they counted (number) bottles and cans in/at (place).

“It doesn’t have to be like this!” said “In South Australia, they have had refunds on bottles and cans since 1977 and they don’t have this problem. Their streets and parks are cleaner and the SA recycling rate is double (your state) (only 40% on average). It’s time for a national solution.”

Refundable deposits work around the world and convenient automated reverse vending machines are the norm.

With a yes vote to CDS, the new system would quickly reach an 80% recycling rate.

Federal Senate Inquiry into beverage industry profiteering welcomed

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 October 2012

The Boomerang Alliance of 22 environment groups today welcomed a Federal Senate inquiry into profit taking by beverage producers such as Coca Cola Amatil, Lion and Schweppes from the South Australia and Northern Territory container deposit (CD), 'cash for container', schemes.

"Coca Cola and Lion's ideological opposition to container deposits was recently revealed by the Boomerang Alliance in a comprehensive pricing report, as taking an ugly turn in also ripping off consumers in those two jurisdictions", said Jeff Angel, Convenor, Boomerang Alliance.

"By charging excessively high fees, failing to return any unused handling fees as well as unclaimed deposits – major companies such as Coke, Lion and Schweppes have been pocketing tens of millions of dollars and ripping off consumers. The Inquiry should lead to significant price reductions in the price of beverages," said Angel.

"This inquiry which was passed without division, will seek to get to the bottom of beverage industry pricing tactics and will be extremely important to ensure this does not happen under any national CD scheme", said Angel.

"The new government in the NT has pledged to fix problems with the NT Cash for Containers scheme and we welcome their determination to get this scheme right. Cash for Containers clearly has multi party support around the country as well as 82% national community support according to Newspann," said Angel.

"The Boomerang Alliance is currently finalising a report into the operation of the NT Cash for Containers scheme and is looking forward to working with the NT government to improve the scheme for the benefit of consumers and the environment," he said.

CONTAINER DEPOSITS – MINISTERS TAKE A BIG STEP FORWARDS

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 24 August 2012

Australia's environment ministers have today taken a big step towards a national container deposits system (CDS).

“Ministers have faced up to the fear campaign from a small section of the beverage industry and listened to the community. By moving to a Decision RIS and expanding the CDS options, including our best practice version - there's clearly a serious examination of CD.”

“We have no doubt an efficient, low cost CDS system will mean no additional cost impost on the consumer above the redeemable deposit and it will deliver multiple benefits to a range of sectors in the economy, governments and households creating a new recycling system not just for beverage containers but also other problem materials,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 22 groups.

“Now we are moving to the last stage of the decision making process – the full benefits of a CDS will become apparent. The Decision Regulatory Impact Statement can now focus on the real world financial benefits.”

“It is however particularly disappointing that Queensland jumped the gun before the meeting and without a proper analysis of the options. Endorsing the commercial venue bin part of the National Bin Network will only lead to a minor increase to container recycling, compared to a CDS. It also appears to lock in a program that will see local government rates rise to cover servicing of litter bins. It's ridiculous for a minister to back a plan that claims it can empty 30,000 rubbish bins for no cost to households,” said Angel.

"In the past month Coca Cola, Lion and Schweppes via the Food and Grocery Council have tried to kill off container deposits with their 'drink-tax-campaign'. They failed,” Angel said.

“We repeat our call on Coca Cola, Lion and Schweppes to immediately inject their millions of dollars of unredeemed deposits, unused handling fees and material sales from the NT CDS, so that NT beverage prices are significantly reduced.”

CONTAINER DEPOSITS – BIG WINS FOR HOUSEHOLDS, COUNCILS, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT – IF MINISTERS AGREE

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 22 August 2012

22 environment groups today called on state and federal environment ministers to adopt a low-cost, efficient container deposits system (see below) at their meeting this Friday in Canberra.

“Such a system will mean no additional cost impost on the consumer above the redeemable deposit because the system costs are paid for by sale of the collected material and unredeemed deposits. It’s been proven elsewhere in the world and it’s what Australia deserves to achieve a world-beating recycling rate for beverage containers,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor for the Alliance.

“Our CDS will save local councils and ratepayers up to \$2 billion over 20 years while the beverage industry alternative bin scheme will cost councils over \$800 million in the same period. The bins will also become contaminated with other rubbish and the contents end up in landfill. A CDS is a win-win-win for households, the recycling industry and the environment.”

"In the past few weeks the 'drink-tax-campaign' of a section of the beverage industry has been shown simply to be scaremongering. They've threatened inflated costs while actually raising prices by profiteering in SA and the NT; used discredited litter data; and have ignored the cost impost on local government of their alternate scheme.”

“Ministers should listen to calls from 82% of the community (Newspoll 26/27 July) for a national deposit/refund scheme”, said Angel.

“We also call on Coca Cola, Lion Nathan and Schweppes to immediately inject their millions of dollars of unredeemed deposits and material sales from the NT CDS so that NT beverage prices are significantly reduced.”

The Efficient, Low Cost National CDS Model based on best practice

BA MODEL	FINANCIAL IMPACT OF BA
One Coordinator	Eliminates multiple admin costs
No sort by brand	Significantly reduces handling fees
Redemption by weight at high volume Hub redeemers	Significantly reduces handling fees for containers from C&I sector
Consolidation of materials locally	Local crushing, compaction & baling reduces transport costs including for regional and rural operations
Automated reverse vending machines	Eliminates 75% of manual handling costs
More redemption by voucher	Reduces working capital held by depots and eliminates security costs

Surplus funds from unredeemed deposits and material sales support scheme	Consumer does not pay additional costs above deposit
Governance by broad stakeholder non-profit entity	Removes incentive to profiteer and manipulate infrastructure rollout
Anti-profiteering provision in PSAct, ACCC powers	Improves compliance

[Print](#)

Sample letter to the local paper, friends, community group

SAMPLE LETTER to your local paper, friends and community group

Dear

Beverage container litter is everywhere.

Have you seen (*mention some local places*)?

The solution is within our grasp with a 10c refundable deposit on drink bottles and cans. We need every state in Australia to support it. The Boomerang Alliance of environment groups and local government organizations has an easy online letter at www.boomerangalliance.org.au.

The Boomerang Alliance model is more efficient and less costly than the SA and NT systems and contrary to the beverage industry scaremongering it will not adversely affect our cost of living, it will create jobs, complement kerbside recycling and create convenient new drop-off centres for other problem items like e-waste and batteries.

Sincerely,

(*sign for individual or community group*)

Name

Address

Date

[Print](#)

Sample letter to your MP

SAMPLE LETTER to your local MP (State and Federal)

Dear _____

Have you seen the litter at (insert location of your litter)?

I regularly *visit/pass this area and am unhappy/angry/* to see this mess.

Not only is it unsightly/ polluting habitat/ creating hazards to children/ washing into stormwater drains and our waterways – but these resources should have been recycled.

Our local environment is important to me/us. I/We call on you to support a genuine solution to the litter. A refundable 10c deposit on all beverage containers will reduce litter and increase recycling. State governments should introduce state-based Container Deposit Systems.

Please tell them that the people of (*your area/region/electorate*) support it!

(*Add more to personalise the message:*)

Signed,

Name

Address

Date

NEWSPOLL RESULTS REVEAL OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR DEPOSITS ON BOTTLES AND CANS

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 04 August 2012

A national Newspoll has demonstrated continued massive community support for government action to introduce a 10cent deposit and refund scheme on cans and bottles - with 82% overall in favor.

“The telephone survey of 1212 people taken over 27-29 July 2012, should give state and national environment ministers who are meeting on 24 August, the

confidence to act. These figures also demonstrate that this kind of practical action to protect the environment is supported by all age, sex and socio-economic groups. Such a large result nationally and in 5 key states, would, we suggest, also indicate strong support from across the political spectrum”, said Jeff Angel, National Convenor, Boomerang Alliance.

“Ministers should feel buoyed by these figures given it was undertaken during the Food and Grocery Council’s tax and fear campaign. The industry alternative of simply more bins in the street will not work and the community will not accept this weak approach.”

“Importantly, also for Ministers is the fact that as evidenced by the South Australian results in this Newspann, once implemented the popularity of deposit refund schemes skyrockets to a whopping 98%, which is a huge endorsement of the sustainability of this approach”, he said.

“The South Australian results demonstrate that once settled in, the deposit scheme becomes a valued part of daily life and consumers actively support it.”

“The Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) have in the last few months spent \$millions on a misleading advertising campaign warning of a new drink container ‘tax’ but the community can see through this – a deposit is not a tax and an efficient national scheme will cost those consumers that recycle nothing”, said Angel.

DETAILED RESULTS FOR Q1: Thinking now about recycling and litter. South Australia currently has a deposit and refund scheme, where 10 cents is added to the cost of bottled and caned drinks. The 10 cents is refunded when people return empty bottles and cans to recycling collection points mostly located at major shopping centres. It’s been suggested the government should introduce a similar scheme around Australia to encourage recycling and reduce litter. Are you personally in favour or against the government introducing this type of deposit and refund scheme for bottles and cans throughout Australia?

														Household Income		
	Total	Male	Female	Grocery Buyer	5 Cap city	X-city	NSW/ACT	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	White SES	Blue SES	<\$50k	\$50-89k	>\$90k
<i>Respondents</i>																
<i>N=</i>	1212	605	607	822	710	502	352	304	201	153	152	649	563	340	265	436
Strongly in favour	66	60	72	68	63	70	65	61	59	93	72	67	65	70	65	68

Partly in favour	17	16	17	15	17	16	16	18	23	5	13	17	16	13	20	16
Total in favour	82	75	89	83	80	86	80	78	82	98	85	83	81	83	85	83
Against	14	20	8	12	16	10	15	17	15	2	9	13	14	14	14	13

Big Bottlers Rip Off!

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 05 August 2012

Coca Cola, Lion Nathan and Schweppes are rorting the container deposits schemes in the Northern Territory and South Australia according to a [detailed pricing analysis](#) by the Boomerang Alliance which is calling on governments and the ACCC to take action.

“Three of the largest beverage manufacturers in the country are taking advantage of consumers by massively overcharging for the costs of these recycling schemes,” said Dave West National Policy Coordinator for the Alliance.

“The result of their profiteering is consumers are being slugged with drink price increases of up to 20cents while beverage producers are retaining unredeemed deposits as profit. They are ripping out millions of dollars from consumers’ wallets. The producers through the Australian Food and Grocery Council are also using these rorts to mount a fear campaign about the introduction of container deposits.”

“They are using their advertising muscle to run a drink tax scare campaign to try and intimidate state and federal governments who are about to decide whether to roll out an efficient, low cost container deposit scheme. Are they funding their campaign by ripping off South Australians and Territorials?” asked West.

The Boomerang Alliance has provided the report to the South Australian and Northern Territory governments and written to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) calling for an investigation. The Alliance will also be writing to the Commonwealth government seeking a change to Federal Product Stewardship legislation to prohibit beverage producers and other sectors covered under this legislation from profiting from recycling schemes.

“It’s time for the community to make the likes of Coke, XXXX, Tooheys and Pepsi pay. If they want to treat their customers with this sort of disrespect, then a change to a responsible brand like Coopers or VB, might be in order.”

The study examined the price of 20 common beverages in Adelaide, Darwin, Perth and Sydney. It found that while some companies were operating ethically, Coca Cola, Lion Nathan and Schweppes were massively overcharging and using this in their political campaign. They were also keeping unredeemed deposits and making big profits from these funds that should be ploughed back into the scheme.

“Beverage producers operating under the container deposit schemes must immediately make their accounts available for public scrutiny. By our estimates CCA, Lion Nathan and Schweppes are on track to pocket over \$20million from South Australia and The Northern Territory alone! What are they doing with all the money?”

ANTI-CONTAINER DEPOSIT(CD) CAMPAIGN GOT ITS FACTS WRONG

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 31 July 2012

A government litter report comparing states has been acknowledged as ‘not credible’* by its authors, dealing a king hit to the beverage industry’s anti-CD campaign.

The Report from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage erroneously indicated that NSW has less litter than South Australia, even with its container deposit system (CDS).

“The Food and Grocery Council and its main backers, Coke and Lion Nathan, have been using the false report extensively to show that container deposits don’t work well,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“Anyone who has been to South Australia knows this is wrong, but that didn’t stop the bottlers from using it in their misleading campaign.”

The analysis of the National Litter Index (NLI) attempted to show per capita litter amounts, but it simply led to gross misrepresentation. Mr Angel said that the NLI itself has also been in major need of a review for some time as its survey methods have serious methodological problems.

“I am also disappointed that the NLI’s parent, the Keep Australia Beautiful Council, wasn’t proactive in correcting the mistake. They know the Index needs reform and should have jumped in to save the project from misuse,” Mr Angel said.

“However the main loser from this exercise is the Food and Grocery Council which has built its anti-CD campaign on misleading statements - like a refundable deposit is a ‘tax’ and their national bin network will do a better job than container deposits.

“In fact, CDS is extremely effective, as shown by the many systems overseas and in SA. And an efficient CDS creates a surplus that can be used to attack broader packaging litter problems and grow recycling in Australia.”

*see SMH, [State littering statistics rubbished](#)

NSW Environment Minister swallows beverage industry spin

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 23 July 2012

NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker made comments in the media today which were suspiciously similar to those made by the beverage industry, said Dave West, Policy Director, Boomerang Alliance.

“Minister Parker is clearly missing the multiple benefits a modern container refund scheme (CDS) represents,” Mr West pointed out. “Meanwhile, the beverage industry has achieved nothing in 30 years of promises to fix the ongoing problem of beverage container litter.

“Far from representing a ‘bygone era’ a modern CDS offers Australia the possibility of a once-in a generation transformation of its waste management and recycling industry.

"The beverage industry keeps touting costs based on the Northern Territory scheme – a scheme which the industry runs itself, and which frankly, it has buggered up. The regulated national model is a completely different approach, using technology which brings costs right down,” West said.

The Boomerang Alliance is about to release a report which will show that *at no cost to consumers who do the right thing*, a national CDS will generate \$1.718BN surplus over 20 years.

The beverage industry currently proposes more bins, which will dump millions of dollars of new costs on local government (at around \$182M p.a.), as that sector is left with the ongoing operation of the bins scheme.

“The beverage industry is opposed to a CDS because for the first time since it dumped refillable bottles on us in the 1970s, it would be required to be involved in the collection and processing of its own used containers,” said West

“The Minister must be careful not to be taken in by the beverage industry’s lip service to cleaning up its act,” said West. “A national CDS and the surplus generated by it, will deliver for the first time 80%+ recycling of cans and bottles; programs for additional packaging waste problems; new infrastructure for community drop off facilities; grants for rural community waste initiatives; along with over 4,000 new jobs in the recycling and reprocessing sector,” said West

“Ministers must look beyond this self interest and recognize the massive popularity of a CDS in Australia and its multiple benefits to the community, environment and industry. We remain keen to work through these issues with Ministers,” said West.

Key Facts & Figures about the Proposed National Container Deposit Scheme

- I. Industry figures are exaggerating the financial impacts of a National Container Deposit Scheme – ignoring the value of unredeemed deposits and sale of material in both their advertising, and in the charges they are forcing onto consumers in the Northern Territory. The recent study by the State and Federal Government shows the scheme will have little to no impact on consumers.**
- I. The adoption of the Boomerang Alliance (BA) approach to a Container Deposit System will represent the single biggest initiative undertaken by government to increase recycling – a boost that is over 10 times the size of the E-Waste Product Stewardship initiative, and twice the size of the Publishers National Environment Bureau’s Newspaper Recycling Initiative**
- I. The scheme operates efficiently and requires no payments from the beverage industry (other than the deposit) until recovery rates exceed 86.5%. \$120million of the surplus generated from the establishment period has been quarantined to ensure the budget does not ‘blow out’. If the interest earnings from the surplus earned are applied to offset performance, the scheme can self-fund for recovery rates as high as 93%, which ranks with the best practice performance globally.**
- I. The BA model will see some 1,700 recycling collection points established around the country – these depots will also be able to cost effectively recover (at least) another 113,000 tonnes of recyclate and dramatically reduce the cost of recovering problem wastes such as car batteries, mobile phones, CFL globes, used paint and chemical containers and electronic waste.**

- I. **PWC/Wright Corporate Strategy have estimated the BA model will reduce the cost of MSW waste and recycling collection services by \$737million over the 20 year study period and reduce the cost of overall existing packaging waste and recycling services by some \$2.72billion over the study period.**
- I. **No other initiative is fully funded – instead relying on existing waste and recycling services to absorb significant costs.**
- I. **The CDS models assessed in the RIS give the recycling industry ‘bankable growth’. Based on the CRIS data the overall industry will grow by some \$716million p.a.**
- I. **The BA model will create another 2,236 recycling jobs + another 1,878 indirect jobs – a 10.05% lift in the overall size of the industry.**
- I. **The BA model will produce a financial surplus of some \$1.718billion and generate some \$1.09billion of interest over the 20 year study period. These monies could be used to provide a substantial stimulus to stakeholders along the recycling value chain.**
- I. **Consumers who redeem all of the containers they consume will actually see their cost of living reduced by some \$10.73 per annum (savings in local government rates).**

Has parliament got the bottle?

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 24 June 2012

Representatives of 21 national and state environment groups today brought the campaign for a national container deposits system (CDS) to Parliament House in Canberra, as key independents got behind the scheme.

The groups will be delivering a littered bottle - one of 8 billion littered or landfilled every year - to every parliamentarian.

“We are also pleased to announce we have the support of Andrew Wilkie, Tony Windsor, Rob Oakeshott and Adam Bandt. This comes on top of the recent statement by environment minister, Tony Burke that he supports a national CDS,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“State and federal environment ministers will be making a decision on 24 August. This will be a crucial moment in a ten year campaign which has attracted such strong community support. With the political will legislation could be passed later this year.”

“When you look at all the research, a CDS is the only option that delivers a sustained reduction in container litter; creates a surplus that can be used to solve a variety of recycling and packaging issues; helps charities; and generates several thousand jobs – all for minimal impact on the consumer and with net savings for council kerbside operations.”

The rally from 10.15 - 11am at the authorized assembly area includes bottle visuals, music and high profile speakers:

Andrew Wilkie, MP; Ian Kiernan; Senator Don Farrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability; Senator Scott Ludlam, Greens; Helen Wei, student.

Industry attack on container deposits based on lies

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 16 June 2012

The Australian Food and Grocery Council’s so-called public education campaign opposing drink container deposits (CDS) is based on a lie, environmentalists said today.

“The industry claims prices will rise by up to 20 cents per container with a national CDS. This is completely wrong. Analysis of the most recent government report shows there will be at most a rise of one tenth of a cent above the 10 cent deposit – and most likely zero impact,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“The beverage industry is trying to transpose the prices it is charging under the Northern Territory CDS to a national scheme. Wrong. A national scheme will be far more cost effective than the complex and inefficient NT system set up by the industry itself.”

“What’s more we have discovered the industry is profiteering from the NT scheme and should be dropping prices immediately.”

“Nor do the claims of job losses or inconvenience to consumers hold water – as evidenced by CDS in other states and countries.”

“This advertising campaign is similar to the failed spin the industry undertook to stop the NT scheme coming into effect. It’s the same litany of misinformation,” Mr Angel said.

COOPERS UNDER ATTACK FOR ANTI-RECYCLING STAND

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 June 2012

The Boomerang Alliance of 21 national and state environment groups today welcomed the entry of the major online campaign group, *Change.org* into the container deposits battle with the beverage industry.

“The beverage industry has made itself a target and a lot of their consumers are very unhappy about their anti-recycling stand. Coopers has been caught up in it and should take action to protect its reputation,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“With federal and state environment ministers due to make a decision in August on whether Australia will have a national container deposits system, the spotlight on the industry can only increase.”

Federal environment minister announces support for CD

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 June 2012

28 April, Cooks River: National environment minister, Tony Burke announces support for container deposits

NT CASH FOR CONTAINERS SUCCESS BUT BEVERAGE INDUSTRY RIP-OFF CONFIRMED

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 12 June 2012

There is now clear evidence that beverage producers have ripped off Northern Territory consumers by over \$5.413m in the first 4 months, under the Cash for Containers Scheme and they should immediately drop prices, environmentalists said today.

“Territorians are doing the right thing by returning containers with a great performance of doubling the recycling rate – but the beverage companies are profiteering,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 21 environment groups.

“With little recycling in place across the NT prior to the Cash for Containers Scheme - recycling of containers has grown by nearly 200% and overall recycling of packaging has also grown from around 450 tonnes per month to approx. 633 tonnes in April.”

“However, analysis of the Cash for Containers Quarterly report just issued by the NT government and based on industry returns, shows that while beverage companies are passing on the full value of both the deposit and an 8 cent per container handling fee for every container sold - they are not paying out on 100% of containers. The unredeemed deposits and unused handling fees can and should be paying for all the scheme costs meaning there should be no handling fee price rise.”

“The handling fees in the first 4 months under the scheme could have been fully paid for by 5 times over.” [see below]

“We demand companies such as Coke and Lion Nathan (owner of Tooheys and other brands) immediately reduce their prices and give Territorians a fair go. Even if returns doubled in the next reporting period – there’s still enough money to cover all the scheme costs.”

“The government should also release the reports of each company and their handling fee costs, so we can see which is the biggest profiteer,” he said.

“Companies may say they are allowed to keep the unredeemed deposits under the South Australian scheme but then they didn’t pass on any handling fees in SA. They may also say they wanted to be cautious about costs at the beginning of the NT scheme but now they have no excuse and should stop the NT rip-off,” Mr Angel said.

The Data: [Cash for Containers Quarterly report, 3 Jan – April 2012]:

Total containers sold = 42,128,590

total 10c deposits received, \$4.212m + total 8c handling fees received, \$3.370m

= Total industry take, \$7.582m

Total containers redeemed = 12,052,502

total 10c deposits redeemed, \$1.205m + total 8c handling fees paid, \$964,200
= total industry return, \$2.169m
TOTAL INDUSTRY PROFITEERING, \$5.413m

Container Deposits – NSW needs to step up

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 20 May 2012

The introduction of a bill for a container deposit system (CDS) in New South Wales is an important step in the campaign to stop the littering or landfilling of 2.3billion beverage containers a year in the state and would make NSW a leader in recycling, environmentalists said today.

“There have been several attempts to have a CDS over the last 25 years and this Bill to be introduced by Greens MLC, Cate Faerhmann and Independent, Clover Moore in the crucial state of NSW is a great impetus to the current campaign,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 17 environment groups.

“If NSW moves on CDS then the prospect of a national system with its even greater environmental and economic benefits becomes even more real. All state and national environment ministers are meeting in August to make a crucial decision. Premier Barry O’Farrell and Environment Minister, Robyn Parker should announce their preferred course of action is a CDS.”

“If there is more delay at the national level then NSW should go it alone,” Mr Angel said.

The NSW bill joins other state efforts with the Northern Territory having introduced a CDS this year; private members bills in Western Australia and Victoria; and the Tasmanian Parliament unanimously voting last week to support national action or if there is no progress, then state action.

“All of these actions have tremendous public support.”

“A national container deposits system (CDS) will deliver \$1.78billion for recycling in the first five years of operation – 17 times more than the national bin offer from the beverage industry. – supporting hundreds of drop-off centres; increased recycling and reprocessing in Australia; improved commercial and industrial collections; public education on litter; and local council efforts. A container deposit system does far more for the packaging problem than any other option at a maximum cost of **one tenth of a cent per container**”.

TAS TRIPARTISAN SUPPORT URGED FOR 10CENT REFUND ON BOTTLES AND CANS

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 May 2012

Hobart; As the Tasmanian Legislative Assembly prepares to debate a motion tomorrow to support a national 10cent container deposit scheme (CDS) 19 national and state green groups called for all parties to recognize the overwhelming support from the community for a CDS.

“With a May 2011 EMRS poll showing 91% of the Tasmanian community supported the parliament introducing a CDS and also Scouts TAS, Oak Industries, Tasmanian Council of Social Services (TasCOSS) and the National Disability Services on record supporting a CDS – this is a political, social, economic and environmental no-brainer,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 19 groups.

A flattened (‘slumped’) glass bottle embossed in gold paint with 91% (representing the level of community support) has been delivered to every member of the Tasmanian parliament along with a briefing on the benefits to the state of a CDS.

“A CDS works on the triple bottom line and quickly achieves an 80% recycling rate and virtual elimination of beverage container litter – that’s been proven in every jurisdiction where it operates – unlike adding more bins to the streetscape and shopping centres and adding to local council costs, which is Coca Cola’s preferred option.”

The Premier recently stated, ‘she agreed with container deposit laws in principle but a national approach was needed. “In a small state like Tasmania it’s not always easy to go it alone,” she said.

“As the government is unwilling to ‘go-it-alone’ on this issue, we are simply seeking the Tasmanian government to make the case for a national CDS in upcoming Ministerial meetings, said Angel.

A national CDS will deliver the following outcomes to Tasmania:

- The virtual elimination of littered cans and bottles
- Increased recycling of containers to over 80%
- Shifting Tasmania from being amongst the worst recyclers and litterers in Australia

- Over 300 new jobs in recycling
- Employment for low skilled and disabled workers
- New business opportunities for community groups (e.g. Scouts Sth Aust recycling depots generate \$22M p.a.)
- \$10-15M in private sector capital investment (recycling depots, trucks etc) & no cost to government
 - No cost of living impact @ 1/10th of a cent per container

Major advance on container deposits campaign welcomed

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 30 April 2012

Strong signals from federal environment minister Tony Burke that he supports a national container deposits system (CDS), have been welcomed by a coalition of 18 environment groups.

The minister told a press conference at the Captain Cook event on the shores of the Cooks River in Sydney's inner west yesterday, that: 'The task at the next ministers' meeting is to get them to join South Australia and the Northern Territory. Container deposits is one of the options in front of us and certainly a CDS will work. There seems to be goodwill amongst the ministers.'

"This is a major advance. With ministers meeting by mid-year we will be ramping up our campaign in the key states. It's taken 10 years to get to this point and every day we wait, another 21million bottles and cans are landfilled or littered," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

"Not only are there guaranteed environmental benefits, but the financial case is clear. A national CDS will produce \$1.8billion in funds in the first 5 years – supporting the establishment of hundreds of drop-off centres for containers and other products and other recycling and litter programs – at the cost to the consumer of one tenth of a cent per container."

"We remain ready to talk to the beverage industry about developing an efficient and effective container deposits system."

"The Coca Cola alternative of more bins in shopping centres and airports will do nothing to clean up the Cooks River, nor the many other urban streams and highways across Australia. It's a cynical attempt to divert government attention from the real solution," Mr Angel said.

Captain Cook meets Environment Minister Burke on Cooks River, to call for action on litter

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 27 April 2012

Environmentalists and local residents today welcome the return of Captain Cook and his advocacy for a container deposit scheme (CDS) to clean up the Cooks River and many other rivers, streams and beaches suffering from beverage container litter.

[The event including a refund stall, giant bottle float and bottle fishing will take place between noon and 1pm, 28 April at Steel Park, Illawarra Road, Marrickville South]

The famous explorer, who came to Botany Bay 242 years ago, will meet on the river bank with federal environment minister, Tony Burke who is overseeing the COAG group of environment ministers which is due to make a decision on a national CDS.

“Captain Cook’s return highlights just how badly the river and many other urban streams in Australia have been and continue to be polluted with plastic bottles and cans. In recent months the Cooks River has been a highway for many hundreds of containers floating up with every tide”, said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre and National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 19 environment groups.

“We estimate 8 billion beverage containers are littered or landfilled every year. We are calling on Tony Burke to lead the environment ministers in an historic decision to implement a national CDS which will clean up this mess quickly and effectively. And it works financially unlike industry alternatives which depend on government and business grants.”

“Local community groups and residents have been disgusted at the pollution that persists due to resistance by beverage companies to a CDS and lack of action by governments. A container deposit system works in many countries and, of course, has in South Australia for over 35 years,” said Judy Pincus, President of the Cooks River Valley Association.

“Opinion polls have consistently shown 80-90% public support for CDS. Surely the ministers can see the political, social, economic and environmental sense in a national scheme. We know that companies such as Coca Cola oppose it but it is now time to stand up to them,” said Mr Angel.

Container deposits system will deliver \$1.78billion to recycling

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 30 March 2012

A national container deposits system (CDS) will deliver \$1.78billion for recycling in the first five years of operation – 17 times more than the national bin offer from the beverage industry, environmentalists revealed today.

“Not only is this amount and the recycling of another 6 billion containers per year assured, compared to the speculative program from the Coca Cola inspired national bin network – the CDS funds could support a wide range of measures to improve recycling across Australia,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 17 national and state environment groups.

“Environment Ministers need to know about this fund when they meet in a couple of months to make a decision on what Australia will do about packaging recycling and litter – because the regulatory impact statement they have before them, doesn’t bother to mention it. This is despite the fact that these recycling funds from a CDS have been a feature of our proposal for some years – but the bureaucracy chose to ignore it.”

“A container deposit system does far more for the packaging problem than any other option at a maximum cost of one tenth of a cent per container. It should be obvious what the Ministers should do at their meeting, but we are going to campaign hard to ensure they get the message,” said Jeff Angel.

Key benefits of a CDS include:

- **A fund worth \$1.78billion** – derived from unredeemed deposits in the early years which should not go into the pockets of the beverage companies but be used to support increased recycling and reprocessing in Australia; improve commercial and industrial collections; public education on litter; local council efforts; and CDS costs.
- **Miniscule impact on beverage prices** – RIS data shows an impact of one tenth of a cent per container by 2020; or under adjustments to errors in the

RIS – a surplus of half a cent or more – when part of the fund supports CDS costs.

- **Clean, not contaminated recycle** – a CDS produces clean materials which attract a price premium and can be used for higher value recycling and more jobs compared to the bin approach which offers, often contaminated material attracting a lower price and downcycling for lower value uses, or dumped into landfill.
- **Financial boost for local councils/ratepayers** – the RIS again proves that kerbside collections are not disadvantaged and councils and ratepayers will financially benefit – to the order of about \$2billion over 20 years – from reduced litter, transport and landfill costs. They also obtain the deposits from containers still in kerbside (RIS estimates about 8% of containers). There may be specific contract issues with waste collectors but these can be solved as a CDS ramps up.
- **A new tier of hundreds of convenient drop-off centres** – as in South Australia these will also take non-beverage container materials. The RIS acknowledges this but did not give the extra materials a dollar value – which we estimate at \$18m pa.
- **A boon for charities** – The RIS failed to measure this. Yet their work is essential for our community.

[Briefing Note](#)

[Submission to the RIS](#) [2012, 699kb]

Beverage manufacturers should come clean on profiteering

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 16 March 2012

Environmentalists today called on beverage companies to come clean on the millions of dollars they will be pocketing from unredeemed deposits under the NT cash for containers scheme.

“No scheme runs at 100% returns and certainly not in the ramp up period. So there is a lot of deposit cash in the hands of the industry. We also understand there could be double pricing of the deposit and handling fee as beverages are on-sold

from South Australia. We want to know where is the money and why isn't it being used to support the cash for containers scheme?" said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

"The beverage companies have made it clear they are passing on the deposit and also the handling fee in the retail price. Their potential profiteering adds insult to injury with their hard ball and obstructive attitude to recyclers."

"The government should also be investigating this as soon as the first quarterly reports are lodged in April."

"We know companies like Coca-Cola are ideologically opposed to cash for containers and they certainly don't deserve to profit from the community support for cash for containers," Mr Angel said.

Industry report seeks to mislead councils on container deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 07 March 2012

The release by the National Packaging Covenant Industry Association (NPCIA) of, *'Impact of the introduction of a container deposit system for local councils with an established kerbside collection system'*, is irrelevant for councils assessing the budget impacts of a national container deposit scheme (CDS), said Jeff Angel, Convenor, Boomerang Alliance.

"This report has bizarrely failed to take any account of the substantial work and data analysis carried out for Environment Ministers by PWC/WCS for the current packaging regulatory impact statement (PRIS) which shows a very significant net benefit to local councils – as do the last 3 studies commissioned by governments", said Angel.

"The PRIS suggests a benefit to local government far in excess of the claimed CDS costs per 1,000 households in the NPCIA report", said Angel.

"The NPCIA report gives no figure for reduced transport, collection and recycling - the PRIS says it's \$31,000 per annum per 1000 households; no value for reduced costs of processing materials - the PRIS says it's around \$28,000 per annum per 1000 households; and no value for reduced litter clean up and the PRIS says this is \$2,400 per annum per 1000 households", said Angel.

“The alternative Coca-Cola proposal for more bins will actually place more costs on local government, as it is this sector that will foot the bill for the collection and processing of often contaminated materials,” said Angel.

Victorian Container Deposits Inquiry adds fuels to national battle

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 29 February 2012

With environment ministers soon to decide on whether Australia will have a national container deposit scheme (CDS), today’s report by the Victorian Upper House has put the heat on the Baillieu government.

“While the committee recommended that the current national investigations continue they also leave it open for the state parliament to act unilaterally. Their inquiry into The Greens CDS bill has paved the way to resolve key legal issues to protect state action from legal challenge. And it certainly puts the dampener on industry proposal for more bins with evidence that bins do not solve the litter problem,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 17 environment groups.

“Key ministers in the Baillieu government are on the record as supporters of CDS and it really is time to act. Every year we don’t act 2.4billion beverage containers are landfilled or littered in Victoria.”

“The Victorian government has only two options; lead the way on a national CDS at the Ministers meeting in May with the threat of state action; or opt to follow through on their pre 2009 election commitment for a state base scheme, and they must now declare which approach they will take”, said Angel.

“People care about their environment and they support recycling. A CDS lets them achieve these twin goals – and at the tiny cost of less than half a cent a container. As well there is money for charities; new jobs and an expanded system of drop-off centres for containers and other materials,” Mr Angel said.

Packaging waste analysis and consultation skewed toward industry?

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 17 February 2012

HOBART, Tasmania: As consultation begins on a new approach to reducing can, bottle and other packaging litter and increasing recycling it appears the bureaucrats running the review have already made up their mind, warned Robert Kelman, Campaign Manager for the Boomerang Alliance.

“Today at the Hobart meeting the integrity of the environment ministers' process came into question. The review approach and statements suggest departments have already decided current policies are enough and the 90% of the community that want a national can and bottle deposit and refund scheme (CDS) to deal with the scourge of container litter and the appalling recycling rates In Tasmania and other states, can be ignored”, said Kelman.

“We know from recent data from the CSIRO that 1/3rd of all plastics floating in the ocean and ingested by and killing wildlife comes from the beverage industry. We know that broken glass bottles cause around 40,000 injuries in Australia per year that require medical treatment. Yet the analysis for Ministers places no value in stopping these impacts.”

“Also a key figure showing the cost to industry and consumers of a CDS is missing. Based on financial analysis in the consultation documents, we estimate a national CDS will cost Coca Cola (and other producers) just 1/10th of a cent per container”, said Kelman.

“If departmental staff get this analysis and the process of consultation wrong ministers will be left carrying the political hot-potato. The community expects an immediate solution to the biggest litter problem we face which is cans and bottles. Only with a CDS will recycling rates go from 38 to 80%. All the other options are pie in the sky,” said Kelman.

Black hole in Australia's recycling of packaging

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 13 February 2012

Official claims of Australia's packaging recycling rate are significantly overstated, environmentalists said today, as state and federal ministers commence consultations for a national bottle and can refund or other new recycling scheme.

“Recent industry and government data shows a black hole in reports from the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC). We estimate over 320,000 tonnes of used

beverage container packaging is missing, meaning the APC is even further away from achieving its target of 65% which was supposed to be reached in 2010,” said Jeff Angel National Convenor of the Alliance of 17 environment groups.

“The data confirms beverage containers are our biggest problem with only 38% recycled – some 10% less than previously claimed. This means 8billion containers are being littered or landfilled in Australia every year (or 21million per day) – a dreadful waste. The new information comes at a time when state and federal governments have released a review (RIS) into options for more packaging recycling and are holding public consultation sessions.”

An example of the APC data problem is with glass. Its 2010 report shows 991,000t of all glass packaging while the PSF industry data shows 961,454 of beverage containers - but beverage containers are 80% of all glass packaging. So where's the other 200,000tonnes missing from the APC data?

“The only policy that will guarantee a quick and enduring improvement is a container deposit system which can reach 80% recovery in a few short years and provide jobs, much reduced litter and support for hundreds of drop-off centres and only cost half a cent a container,” Mr Angel said.

Ministers are expected to meet mid-year to decide on a new approach.

The data is drawn from a new report from Industry Edge OMG Equilibrium commissioned by the peak packaging industry group, Packaging Stewardship Forum (PSF) and the environment ministers’ review. The PSF report contains more accurate information on consumption (an acknowledged weakness in APC reports). The recycling data is taken from the Regulatory Impact Statement into Packaging (RIS) and the APC as the PSF report we believe includes material collected at Material Recovery Facilities but potentially stockpiled at reprocessors and can’t be counted in any one year figure. The RIS and APC correctly excluded stockpiles. Nor can use of glass as roadbase be considered as recycling - it is a different category of one-off downcycling.

Packaging material	Adjusted Packaging Consumption (tonnes)	Adjusted Beverage Container Consumption	RIS Packaging Recycling Estimate (tonnes)	RIS Beverage Container Recycling Estimate	% Recycling Rate - Packaging	% R Rate Con
Paper/cardboard	2,711,321	31,321	2,024,000	12,680 [1]	74.65%	40.4
Glass	1,166,454	961,454	466,000	362,000	39.95%	37.6
Plastics	565,285	267,216	197,000	93,000	34.85%	34.8
Steel cans	136,249	68,000	41,000	27,000	30.09%	39.7
Aluminium	57,196	57,196	35,000	31,640 [2]	61.19%	55.3

Composite Bev Containers	-	11,479	-	2,058[3]		17.9
Total	4,656,150	1,396,666	2,763,000	528,378	59.34%	37.8

[1] Used BDA/WCS 2010 recycling numbers

[2] Aerosol can recycling subtracted from aluminium can recycling – Source PSF Report by Industry Edge OMG Equilibrium

[3] Used BDA/WCS 2010 recycling numbers

[Print](#)

Hobart Harbor Clean Up unnecessary if government ‘did the right thing

’HOBART, Tasmania: Efforts by University of Tasmania dive club to clean up the harbor bottom are fantastic and should be applauded but they would not be necessary if the government and parliament acted to introduce a 10cent deposit on cans and bottles, said Robert Kelman, Campaign Manager for the Boomerang Alliance.

“I can guarantee the vast majority of the material collected in tomorrow’s clean up will be discarded cans and bottles”, said Kelman.

“The likelihood of this happening if Tasmania had a 10cent deposit on cans and bottles like South Australia and the Northern Territory would be massively reduced. Tasmania is amongst the worst recyclers in Australia with only 14% of all waste recycled and also one of the worst littered states in the country.”

“Late last year the Tasmanian Legislative Council passed a motion urging the government to act to introduce a deposit on cans and bottles. As the national process dithers and community members go back into the harbor to clean it yet again we are urging all sides of parliament to act and introduce a 10cent deposit on cans and bottles now.”

“A state based deposit scheme on cans and bottles would attract between \$9-15M in private sector capital and generate hundreds of new jobs in recycling. Such a scheme has also been supported by disability, welfare and community groups including Scouts Tasmania, TasCOSS, Oak Industries and the National Disability Services”, said Kelman.

[Print](#)

NT Container Deposits - time for politics is over

The Boomerang Alliance of 18 environment groups today called on the CLP to stop playing politics with the newly introduced NT container deposits scheme (CD) and to get behind what will be one of the most popular environmental measures ever to be introduced in the NT.

“Yesterday’s comments by CLP environment spokesman, Peter Chandler calling into doubt CLP support for CD, are clearly in direct response to lobbying by Coca Cola which is pushing its bins and advertising alternative. But he is being duped – there’s a lot more he should investigate first,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“Importantly the recent report from environment ministers under COAG, states that the industry option has questionable assumptions which have yet to be tested. This position is reinforced by the peer review commissioned from the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences. The industry option is a slippery slide of ambiguous intentions about money and long term commitment as well as serious doubts that lots of bins and short term advertising campaigns can match the quick and proven results from a CD scheme.”

“Additionally Mr Chandler only refers to the alleged cost of a national CD scheme but conveniently ignores the upfront statement by all environment ministers including those from Coalition states, that numbers are only part of the decision story. Qualitative benefits which CD delivers in spades are also to be taken into account. “

“If the CLP did win government it would find out very quickly that such benefits of new jobs, significant private investment in new recycling facilities and reduced litter are the ones that the community would not want to lose. Removing the container deposits scheme would mean a major loss of quality environmental benefits as well as guaranteed financial gains.”

“We call on Mr Chandler to stop playing politics and support the community not Coca Cola - just as they did when the NT Parliament unanimously passed the CD law,” Mr Angel said.

GETUP LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN FOR CAN AND BOTTLE REFUND SCHEME WITH INTERACTIVE ANTI-COKE VIDEO

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 December 2011

With Coca-Cola Australia running a misinformation campaign against the Northern Territory's proposed container deposit legislation, GetUp and the Boomerang Alliance are today launching an [interactive video](#) to raise awareness and build public pressure in support of a national deposit and refund scheme on cans and bottles.

By simply typing a name into a text box, viewers have their name appear regularly as an integral part of the video – mimicking Coke's name-branding can campaign – with a superhero style narrative calling into question Coke's decision to campaign against the legislation.

“Container deposit legislation is very simple, it means when you buy a drink, you get 10 cents back if you return the empty glass or bottle when you're done,” GetUp Acting National Director Sam McLean said. “It's done all over the world including in South Australia and delivers massive environmental and social benefits.”

“A 10 cent refund if you hand in your can of Coke to be recycled delivers massive benefits, including 330,000 tonnes more containers recycled, 1.3million tonnes of greenhouse gasses saved, 2.4 billion litres of water saved and littering reduced by 30%.”

“We know these schemes are successful because they already exist here in Australia, like in South Australia where bottle recycling has happened for 30 years and over 80% of containers are recycled.”

“Each time a scheme is introduced, companies like Coke are there to cry poor, but unsurprisingly, to date, the sky hasn't fallen anywhere people get a refund for reusing or recycling a drink container.”

GetUp is launching the video in partnership with the Boomerang Alliance, a group made up of Australia's leading environment groups committed to work for zero waste in Australia. It includes Environment Victoria, the Australian Conservation Foundation, Greenpeace, the NSW Local Government and Shires Association, Clean up Australia and Total Environment Centre.

“We are disgusted by the bully-boy tactics of some in the industry used to oppose container deposit schemes in many parts of the world,” National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance Jeff Angel said. “They're trying to block this important change from happening in Australia and must be challenged.”

“We know the majority of the community support a Container Deposit Scheme.”

“It works in South Australia which has Australia’s lowest rate of beverage containers in the litter stream and is the nation’s pre-eminent recycler and it will soon start in the Northern Territory. It should now go national.”

Coke has previously threatened to challenge the Northern Territory’s proposed legislation in court and have been reported make threats to run political campaigns against governments. GetUp and the Boomerang Alliance will target other industry players and environment ministers over coming months.

[Print](#)

Packaging Study - deeply flawed

The new packaging study released by environment ministers is shockingly biased against a container deposits system (CDS), according to environmental groups.

“We had already warned that the regulatory impact statement approach understates benefits and overstates costs of environmental policies – and this one takes it to a new level. The numbers approach unjustifiably finds a CDS is costly when all the evidence from real life operating CDS shows massive benefits,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

“We appreciate environment ministers’ assurance that non-quantifiable benefits will be taken into account. Nevertheless it’s clear that CDS is the only option that can quickly and sustainably remove an extra 3 billion beverage containers a year from the litter and landfill streams and build a network of recycling depots around Australia for all sorts of waste items, generating jobs and economic opportunity for the financial cost of half a cent a container.”

“The other options in the RIS are based on fantasy targets and dollar numbers because they are theoretical.”

“The RIS also appears to accept that these other options will produce a lot of packaging material that can’t be repeatedly made into containers or other packaging - but will be incinerated. That’s a low quality result.”

Serious flaws

“Major problems we have already identified are:

- The failure to do a financial analysis that reveals the impact on the wallets of industry and consumers, when previous research has shown CDS will cost half a cent a container

- Treating theoretical industry options such as more bins and advertising as having the same validity as proven schemes such as a CDS. A major problem also found by ABARE in its peer review of the RIS.”

“We will ensure the community is advised that the numbers in this report are not a legitimate basis on which environment ministers can reject a CDS. We will be focusing on the community and political campaign – the best container recycling system in the world will only cost half a cent a container and environment ministers should stop doing studies and implement it.”

Environment Ministers’ Packaging Review – ‘dead on arrival’

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 06 December 2011

Questions raised today by the South Australian government about the long awaited ‘packaging regulatory impact statement’ (to be released by environment ministers tomorrow), shows it is already falling apart and can’t be used to stop a national container deposit/refund system (CDS), said environmentalists.

“The RIS is dead on arrival,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 18 environment groups.

The statements were made during a joint announcement by the SA and NT governments about integrating their CDS. South Australia has had a CDS for over 30 years and the NT’s begins on 3 January. Serious questions were raised about the RIS assumptions and treatment of multiple benefits from a CDS.

“These are the two governments that have the experience in developing a CDS and they have also fully investigated the alternatives. Clearly the RIS produced under the guidance of senior officials from NSW and Qld does not pass muster and will misinform the community who are being asked to choose between the proven CDS with its 80+% recycling rate, massive container litter reduction for the tiny cost of half a cent a container; and theoretical models proffered by industry.”

“We are also very concerned that the RIS consultants, Pricewaterhouse Coopers employed a long standing public opponent of CDS to advise on CDS and other packaging stewardship models. We’ll be demanding release of his report and full transparency by the consultants. It raises further questions about the adequacy of the RIS upon which ministers are supposed to make a decision about a national CDS.”

“We welcome the move by the two governments to align their CDS as an important effort to improve efficiency and coverage. Soon the NT and SA will be the envy of other states with the virtual disappearance of beverage container litter. Latest results show SA with its CDS has lowest, by far, of beverage containers in litter stream; with WA worst, followed by NSW and Vic. On general recycling - SA is also the best state at total and per person levels,” Mr Angel said.

Coke NT Price Rises ‘a political stunt’

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 01 December 2011

Coke is engaging in political posturing with its announcement of price rises attributed to the Territory’s container deposit scheme (CDS), environmentalists said today.

“If the South Australian experience is anything to go by, Coke will make money from the scheme as they get to keep the unredeemed deposits. And when a scheme is ramping up there is likely to be a spike in the cash flow as it takes a little while for the public to fully engage with the new system,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 18 environment groups.

“This is simply a political stunt intended to leverage its aggressively negative attitude towards CDS as the national debate about CDS is about to start with the imminent release of a packaging impact statement. Coke opposes the best container recycling system in the world as a matter of course – disregarding the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits.”

“We support any action by the NT government that causes Coke to think again. And every time Coke makes such moves we see another jump in support for CDS. Coke are becoming experts at making themselves unpopular,” Mr Angel said.

Bottle and Can Refund Summer Campaign Launched With Anti-Coke Viral Video

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 23 November 2011

As environment ministers prepare to release another study into a bottle and can refund scheme and the beverage industry led by Coca Cola engages in greenwash with their 'more bins' project, environment groups today released a [video](#) exposing Coke's sins, to mark the start of a 'hot summer of campaigning'.

"When ministers release the so-called 'packaging regulatory impact statement' in a couple of weeks, the battle for Australia to have a bottle and can refund or container deposit scheme (CDS) will really heat up. Coke is leading the opposition and promoting a \$20mpa scheme to have more bins, despite every study showing this would do little to reduce litter or substantially increase recycling. It's an inducement to ministers to fail on litter and recycling," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance of 18 environment groups.

"The short video on Youtube exposes the record of Coke and its allies and calls on people not to believe the greenwash anymore", said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia. "With Coke mounting a renewed lobbying campaign and threatening legal action against the Northern Territory government for its CDS – we can't stand by and let their bully boy tactics stall or stop much needed action. "

"With the recent release of an international study by PricewaterhouseCoopers showing the massive benefits from a CDS – recycling rates above 80%; better quality recycle to make new bottles; and excellent coexistence with kerbside recycling – we are more convinced than ever that a CDS is the way to go", said Mr Angel.

"And so is the public (as every opinion poll has shown in the last 5 years). Our campaign over summer will be aimed at exposing the environmental irresponsibility of Coke and its allies and mobilising people to put pressure on ministers and MPs. Everyone is sick of the procrastination and endless time-wasting studies," Mr Kiernan said.

New International Study Shines Light on Solutions for Australia's Lost 6 Billion Beverage Containers

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 November 2011

As Australian environment ministers prepare to make a decision on what to do with the 6 billion beverage containers littered or landfilled each year, the findings of the most extensive international study to date by PwC, launched today in Melbourne gives the answers.

"This report is relevant to Australia because it includes Germany and like them we have a kerbside collection system which a container deposit system (CDS) partly

replaces. It's important to know if recycling and the kerbside system built up by local councils, are disadvantaged. Ministers will want to know if Australia will have a better and more cost effective recycling program, as well as recover the lost 6 billion containers each year making up the ugly litter in our streets, parks and rivers and dumped in landfills, if we introduce a CDS," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 18 environment groups.

"We are privileged to have Juergen Resch, Executive Director of the national green NGO, German Environment Aid here to launch the report and meet stakeholders."

"The study, *'Reuse and Recycling Systems for Selected Beverage Packaging from a Sustainability Perspective'* was carried out by 17 PwC sustainability experts from eight different countries, including Australia. The 410 page report reveals significant economic, social and environmental benefits from deposit systems compared to kerbside collection - and that they work well together. I also know from my own experience in Germany which has a relatively high deposit of 33centsAUD that beverage sales are not impacted by the CDS," said Juergen Resch.

Key results of the report include:

- Deposit systems provide significant ecological, economic and social advantages compared to kerbside collection systems. Some of the main advantages are:
 - Higher collection rates (typically 85-99%)[\[1\]](#)
 - Higher recycling rates (typically 85-99%)
 - Higher quality of the collected materials (e.g. due to pre-sorting via reverse vending machines and reduced contamination)
 - Practically no littering of beverage containers
- When comparing a deposit system and a kerbside collection system for one-way beverage containers none of the systems is generally more expensive than the other. Considering the achieved results of deposit systems in form of collection and recycling rates they are more cost efficient than kerbside collection
- The introduction of deposit systems for beverage packaging in countries with existing kerbside collection systems does not jeopardize existing collection and recycling systems. Deposit systems supplement kerbside collection schemes and co-exist very well.

(See also: [The Reality of Beverage Container Recycling](#), a presentation on the PwC report by Jürgen Resch, Executive Director of Deutsche Umwelthilfe)

Environment ministers will be receiving a 'regulatory impact statement' (RIS) in a few weeks examining new packaging laws including a CDS. After public consultation they will make a decision. The RIS controversially includes more voluntary action by the beverage industry which will have minimal impacts on recycling and litter.

The RIS has also been criticised by environment groups as 'another time-wasting study' after 8 years of investigation into container deposit schemes.

[1] Note: Germany has a high deposit of 33cents AUD and we are advocating 10cents, so returns in Australia would be about 80%

Tas push on for CD

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 09 November 2011

Yesterday the Tasmanian Upper House supported a motion by Greg Hall, MLC for the state to implement a container deposit scheme which would boost recycling, jobs and private investment.

"The 6 hour debate canvassed all the issues and CD again showed it had the convincing economic, environmental and social arguments", said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

"We congratulate Mr Hall for his action and will continue to push the government to act. We have kept close tabs on the national process of investigation in which the Environment Minister is placing so much faith. But it's simply an excuse for inaction."

"Even if you can cross the barrier of the biased regulatory impact statement process - on a conservative assessment you'd be lucky to see any national legislation before 2014 and then you will have to develop the infrastructure. The strategy of key opponents in the beverage industry and key federal and state bureaucrats is to string everyone along until the CD push runs out of steam."

"And the industry alternative of more litter bins is not an answer - you can't put a bin along every 100 metres of road and at every turn of a river. You need the financial incentive of the ten cent deposit which creates a seamless collection system," Mr Angel said.

[link to ABC TV story](#)

ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS SHOULD GET CRACKING ON CONTAINER DEPOSITS

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 September 2011

Seventeen national and state environment groups have urged Australia's national and state environment ministers to start planning for the introduction of a container deposit system (CDS) at their Canberra meeting tomorrow.

"We've had 8 years of studies and reviews and process cul-de-sacs. There's now enough information to show the very significant economic, environmental and community benefits of a CDS. At most it will cost half a cent a container to reap hundreds of new drop-off centres that can take a range of recycled materials, create over 1,000 new jobs, make millions of dollars for community service groups and achieve a massive drop in litter," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

"We think that individual states should introduce a CDS but if there is a national agreement tomorrow then so much the better. But it's time to stop wasting time. Every non-decision from a ministerial meeting means another 6 billion beverage containers thrown away each year."

"Environment groups have also told ministers they have no confidence in the current regulatory impact statement process – the latest study into a CDS. Some senior officials also oppose a CDS and are advising ministers. The way it has been set up is biased and the narrow economic methodology leads to a negative view of key environmental benefits. It's just another way of saying no," Mr Angel said.

Major Media Investigation into Container Deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 11 September 2011

Link to the Radio National 12.09.11 Background Briefing [story](#) on container deposits - you'll learn about things you never knew and more about what you did know.

Coke's NT court case just more obstruction

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 09 September 2011

Plans by Coca Cola to challenge the Northern Territory's container deposits (CDS) law in the courts shows Coke's opposition to good recycling systems has no limits, the Boomerang Alliance of 17 national and state environment groups said today.

"Coke say they are taking the case to court to insist on national harmonization of such schemes under mutual recognition law, but Coke also oppose a national container deposit scheme. They are just obstructionist on every level," Mr Angel said.

"The Northern Territory has serious litter problems from beverage containers causing injuries and death to wildlife; despoiling tourist beauty spots and wasting valuable resources. Despite a comprehensive loss in the NT Parliament which unanimously supported the cash for containers law after extensive economic and environmental analysis and massive community support – Coke persists in its environmentally bankrupt position," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Alliance.

"Little wonder that the company has just lost its position on the Dow-Jones International Sustainability Index. It's becoming an environmental pariah."

"The NT law is planned to begin operation in January 2012. When rolled out it will create over 300 jobs; increase recycling by 80%; save ratepayers \$540,000 each year; and inject \$7m of new investment. Coke is seeking to deny these benefits to Territorians. Coke's alternative? – more bins and advertising which will not achieve anywhere near the 80% recovery rate under a CDS as shown in South Australia and elsewhere."

"What's more the national approach is weighed up against effective environmental policy like a CDS because it is governed by the regulatory impact statement process which overstates costs and understates benefits," Mr Angel said.

Australia remains littered with dangerous bottles and cans while ministers and beverage industry do nothing

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 22 August 2011

The annual National Litter Index from Keep Australia Beautiful demonstrates yet again that beverage containers are the dominant litter problem across Australia and that South Australia with its container deposit scheme has the lowest volumes of litter, including beverage containers, of all states and territories. (see our [analysis](#))

“Of the ‘dirty dozen’ most littered items by volume, beverage containers account for seven of those and it is virtually the same result year after year”, said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance of 17 environment groups.

“Obviously, with its ten cent deposit on bottles and cans, South Australia is streets ahead of the rest when it comes to the littering of these items, but SA also has the lowest volumes of litter overall”, said Angel.

“Unfortunately, every year this report comes out, Ministers and beverage companies pledge to tackle the scourge of litter with inadequate programs and every year the same waste appears littered across the country.”

“Broken glass bottles cause around 40,000 injuries in Australia per year including 5000 requiring medical treatment. While plastics, including from beverage containers break apart, are ingested by birds, fish, whales and dolphins and cause death to this wildlife.”

“This littered material should be recycled. A national deposit scheme like SA’s will obviously work and the beverage industry should get out of the way and allow states to act.”

“Despite some methodological questions about the litter index the Boomerang Alliance welcomes the contribution made by KAB to this debate”, said Angel.

Boomerang and AFGC go head-to-head

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 01 August 2011

The Boomerang Alliance and Australian Food and Grocery Council have duelling opinion pieces on ABC [Environment Opinion](#).

Green groups withdraw from container-deposit process - call on Vic Govt to act

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 18 July 2011

The Boomerang Alliance of environment groups today protested in Melbourne withdrawing from the Commonwealth investigation of a national ten cent container deposit scheme.

With banners, protestors and littered bottles and cans the Boomerang Alliance protest at Queensbridge Sq in Melbourne, coincided with a Federal consultation meeting in Melbourne on ways to address packaging waste.

“For 30 years South Australia has shown the way with a ten cent deposit on bottles and cans. The Northern Territory is now following with their own scheme and meanwhile the Commonwealth has spent the past eight years dithering” said Dave West, National Policy Director, Boomerang Alliance.

“This process is both delayed and corrupted. We do not believe the Federal department can manage this process and in fact the investigation is designed to fail. There is no way this Federal process will resolve this issue.”

“In opposition the Victorian government supported Victoria acting independent of a national scheme and they backed the Victorian Greens draft legislation. They must now follow through on their commitment and lead the rest of the country by again supporting this legislation.”

“The Federal department and some state government officials are now simply too close to some of the beverage companies. Companies like Coca Cola, who oppose deposit legislation for their own narrow self interest, now, effectively run this debate.”

“It’s not good enough for the Victorian Liberal party to say one thing in opposition and do another thing in government. They must fulfill their promises and support the Greens legislation to introduce a statewide recycling scheme now or be seen as just another cynical government” said West.

[Review of Packaging RIS Approach](#) [140kb, 2011]

Link to ABC [Radio story](#)

OPINION POLL SHOWS TASMANIANS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT DEPOSITS ON CANS AND BOTTLES

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 18 June 2011

Hobart, Tasmania. A new [opinion poll](#) out today shows a whopping 91% of Tasmanians would support the Tasmanian parliament introducing a 10cent deposit and refund scheme on cans and bottles.

‘This is a massive result and we urge the parliament to follow the lead of South Australia and now the Northern Territory which will introduce a ten cent scheme later this year’, said Rob Kelman, Campaign Director for the Boomerang Alliance

‘Based on the experience of South Australia a ten cent deposit on bottles and cans would result in the recycling of 80% of beverage containers and huge reductions in the rates of litter in Tasmania’.

‘The establishment of a container deposit system or CDS in Tasmania would not cost the government anything as the private sector would invest between \$9-15M in new infrastructure to collect and recycle containers’,

‘Unfortunately the national process to introduce a CDS is on the slow lane and unlikely to result in anything but more delay, while Tasmania continues to flounder with the lowest rates of recycling in Australia at only 14%’, said Kelman.

‘The time for the parliament to act is now as our landfills pile to overflowing with rubbish and there is really no excuse with the community overwhelmingly demanding action’, said Kelman.

‘MPs can’t ignore a 91% result from the community.’

The EMRS poll of 1,000 people was undertaken over the weekend of 23-29 May showed 75% strongly and 16% partly support the parliament introducing a CDS.

GOVERNMENT FAILURE TO SUPPORT RECYCLING COSTS 300 JOBS

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 June 2011

HOBART, Tasmania; A new report by the Boomerang Alliance of environment groups and local government shows the Tasmanian government could create 300 new private sector jobs if it introduced of a ten cent deposit on cans and bottles.

The Boomerang Alliance has undertaken [analysis](#) based on successful models including South Australia's ten-cent container deposit scheme (CDS) demonstrating that at no infrastructure cost to state or local government, 300 new jobs in Tasmania would be created if the government adopted a CDS.

"These jobs are much needed but so far government has failed to act, instead looking to a national review process which is on the slow boat and with no definite result likely," said Robbie Kelman, National Campaign Director for the Boomerang Alliance.

The jobs are generated through collection, transportation and processing of cans and bottles for recycling for either local or offshore markets. An estimated \$9-15M in new private sector investment would flow into the state establishing recycling depots and processing centres.

A fund of so-called 'unredeemed deposits' amounting to around \$6M p.a. in Tasmania would fund the scheme's operation and potentially return revenues to the government for use with additional supportive environmental programs by the Environment Protection Authority.

A Tasmanian CDS would also, the report shows, increase Tasmania's overall poor recycling rates by 50%.

"Tasmania has the lowest rates of recycling in Australia at a disgraceful 14%. The new scheme would not only collect most beverage containers but also extend recycling to many Tasmanians who don't have access to rrecycling; and support new collection depots that could receive other materials - leading to a big overall improvement", said Dave West", National Policy Director, Boomerang Alliance and author of the report.

Container Deposit Claims - Food and Grocery Council gets facts wrong

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 17 June 2011

The Australian Food and Grocery Council claims in its attack on Hartland's Deposit Bill are so inaccurate, they are laughable, the Boomerang Alliance said today.

"They claim the costs of the scheme are large 'based on the actual costs of running South Australian CD scheme', but the Victorian proposal is very different. For example the Victorian proposal makes extensive use of cheaper and efficient reverse vending machines which don't occur in SA. The AFGC claim is wrong and intended as scaremongering," said Cam Walker, Campaigns Coordinator of Friends of the Earth.

"Next they talk about the Australian Packaging Covenant (APC) and its packaging recycling achievements. Again it is misleading because those figures include large amounts of non-beverage container packaging. In fact the APC figures show much lower rates for recycling of glass and plastic containers (47% and 35%). And the most recent report commissioned by environment ministers found only 15% of away-from home containers were recycled."

"The AFGC and their campaign backed by Coke, Fosters and Lion Nathan are engaging in the same misleading scare tactics they used in the Northern Territory - that failed to sway any MP in the NT Parliament," Mr Walker said.

"When in Opposition the (now) Victorian Government didn't fall for this nonsense when they supported Hartland's Deposit Bill and they shouldn't now."

"Beverage containers are the real black hole that we should be addressing. We also think the figures produced by the Greens are conservative and there may be more benefits than calculated."

It's Time for Victoria to have container deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 June 2011

The introduction of the Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Bill by The Victorian Greens gives a leading opportunity for Victoria to gain major economic, social and environmental benefits, the Boomerang Alliance of 15 environment groups said today.

"It's clear to us that the alternative process of a national approach is highly unlikely to produce anything useful for the biggest waste packaging problem we have - beverage containers. Less than half are recycled and the rest are either landfilled

or litter our parks, streets, beaches and streams. It is really up to state governments to take the lead," said Jeff Angel, Boomerang Convenor.

"In opposition the Liberal party showed real commitment to this issue by supporting the Greens bill. They now have the opportunity in government to pass the legislation and show national environmental leadership while delivering jobs and economic opportunities at the same time."

"Recently the Northern Territory Parliament unanimously passed a CD law comprehensively rejecting the opposition by the beverage companies such as Coke, Fosters and Lion Nathan. Their arguments were exposed as a misleading fear campaign with no concern for the public interest."

"The companies claim big price rises but based on recent work undertaken for environment ministers, at most it could be half a cent a container and The Greens Bill contains extra provisions to negate any consumer costs of the scheme."

"Private investment will also be drawn to Victoria creating jobs, a cleaner environment and new recycling drop-off centres," said Mr Angel.

Coke HQ Leak Reveals Strategy to Oppose Container Deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 15 May 2011

Environmental groups have obtained a leaked email exposing the latest plans by Coca Cola Amatil to oppose the introduction of container deposits (CDS) into Australia.

"Coke have roped in the Keep Australia Beautiful Council to relaunch the 'Do the Right Thing' anti-litter advertising campaign in an effort to greenwash themselves out of the growing problem of container litter. They also intend to fund some token bins in public places – it's a joke," said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

"Recently Coke, Lion Nathan and Fosters funded a TV, radio and newspaper campaign against the introduction of a container deposits law in the Northern Territory but failed dismally when the NT Parliament unanimously supported it. The public and parliamentary debate went through every social, environmental and economic angle and found the beverage companies wanting. They were

accused by the NT government of trying to mislead people and no doubt this new campaign will try the same.”

“The companies undertook polling after their campaign and found 70% of Territorians still supported a CDS – and our polling showed 80%. It’s the same across Australia. All the companies have is a weak PR program that is not a meaningful response to a serious problem.”

"A container deposit scheme would collect an additional 300,000tonnes of clean recyclate while the beverage company approach collects maybe 10% of that and it is often contaminated."

“We call on Keep Australia Beautiful Council to disengage from these polluting companies if it wants to retain any integrity. I’m surprised KABC which has been trying to portray itself as a more independent group would get into bed with Coke. It will kill their reputation as it will become directly involved in the CDS battle and associated with misinformation,” Mr Angel said.

The leaked email (see below) came to light after Boomerang activists handed out leaflets to Coke staff last week seeking their help in changing the company’s policy.

From: alec.wagstaff@anz.ccamatil.com [mailto:alec.wagstaff@anz.ccamatil.com]

Sent: Tuesday, 10 May 2011 10:31 AM

To: AUS_Head_Office_Users@anz.ccamatil.com; AUS_Head_Office_Corporate_Users@anz.ccamatil.com

Subject: Boomerang Alliance Leaflet on Container Deposit Scheme

Some of you may have been handed a leaflet this morning by representatives of a group known as the Boomerang Alliance. I wanted to confirm our position so you can make up your own mind on the claims made.

The Boomerang Alliance argues CCA is publicly opposed to a Container Deposit Scheme. This is correct.

At CCA our focus is on the full lifecycle of a package. We’re leading the way in lightweighting our containers, play an active role in the recovery and recycling of them, and continue to drive industry efforts. Australia has the most cost efficient and popular recycling system in the world – kerbside recycling. We believe the best way to increase environmental outcomes is to make it as easy for people to recycle away from home, as it is at home. To this end, we are currently working with the beverage industry and Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) on an alternate

solution to a Container Deposit Scheme. The solution will see the highly successful “Do the Right Thing” anti litter campaign relaunched, and build on the success of kerbside recycling with expanded opportunities for Australians to recycle when they are away from home.

Coke HQ Targeted in Protest

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 10 May 2011

Activists from the Boomerang Alliance of environment groups have for the second morning in a row demonstrated at Coca Cola’s North Sydney HQ informing staff of the company’s anti-environmental political lobbying.

About eight activists, with banners and a large coke can costume are standing vigil at the front of Coca Cola Amatil’s offices at 40 Mount St North Sydney handing out flyers and speaking with Coca Cola staff about their company’s public campaigns against container deposit schemes (CDS).

“During the recent debate in the Northern Territory as the NT parliament voted in favor of a CDS Coca Cola executives were accused by the NT government of offering to support the opposition party to overthrow the legislation”, said Boomerang Alliance Campaign Manager, Rob Kelman.

“The NT Chief Minister also accused the Coca Cola front group and the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) of running a misleading public scare campaign.”

“Coca Cola and their allies, Lion Nathan and Fosters stand in the way of a sensible and widely supported environmental reform to recycle an extra three billion beverage containers a year with a simple ten cent deposit.”

“Despite what Coca Cola and other producers claim, Australia could have a national CDS and achieve 80% recycling of cans and bottles for less than ½ a cent per container.”

“Opposition from these large companies to a CDS seems to be based on little more than an ideological blindfold to regulation. Staff of these companies should demand better,” he said.

Northern Territory's historic defeat of beverage industry lies

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 24 February 2011

“Today’s passage with the support of all MLA’s, of the NT Government’s Cash for Container legislation to introduce a ten cent deposit on bottles and cans, signals the defeat of the misleading campaign by Coca Cola, Fosters and Lion Nathan,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor, Boomerang Alliance.

The NT is the first Australian jurisdiction in over 30 years to adopt a South Australian style deposit/refund scheme for cans and bottles. NT can now look forward to a more than doubling of recycling rates for glass and plastic containers and over 300 direct and indirect jobs.

“We congratulate the Government, Independents and CLP in standing up to the big beverage companies. The public interest has prevailed. They’ve shown that the lies and deception of Coke, Fosters and Lion Nathan don’t win an argument,” said Angel.

“The SA scheme operates through an established network of 100 convenient and privately funded depots. These depots also collect used consumer items like computers, TV’s, batteries and gas bottles,” said Ian Kiernan, AO Chairman and founder of Clean Up Australia.

“It is this kind of recycling reform that should be adopted right across Australia,” said Kiernan.

“I urge the beverage industry to now get on board to make this work and not attempt to derail a scheme that has achieved the approval of the democratically elected parliamentary representatives of the NT which by their own survey enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of Territorians,” he said.

COCA COLA CAUGHT OUT IN ‘CASH FOR NO-RECYCLING’ SCANDAL

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 23 February 2011

Environmentalists have called for an independent investigation into [allegations](#) that senior Coca Cola executives threatened to fund the opposition Country Liberal Party (CLP) 2012 election campaign if the NT Government proceeded with their 'cash for containers' legislation.

"If correct, this is a very serious scandal of 'buying votes' undermining democracy and brings the anti-CD campaign by Coca Cola and its allies Fosters and Lion Nathan into the gutter. Their front group for the NT campaign, 'Responsible Recycling' has used radio and newspaper ads, push polling and misleading information to try and defeat the NT 'cash for containers' deposit refund scheme", said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

"Buying a political party is beyond the pale. To get to the bottom of these allegations there must be an independent inquiry with the power to compel witnesses to give evidence under oath."

"We are now urging Fosters and Lion Nathan to publicly distance themselves from Coke and the anti-CD campaign – their reputations can only continue to suffer. They should get on board in designing the most efficient container deposit system in the NT."

BOOMERANG ALLIANCE SLAMS CONTINUING MISLEADING CLAIMS ON NT CASH FOR CONTAINERS – ACCC COMPLAINT LIKELY

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 22 February 2011

"As the Northern Territory parliament prepares to vote on historic reform of recycling and litter management of cans and bottles in the NT, Coca Cola, Fosters and Lion Nathan are continuing to publish misleading figures on the cost of the scheme – which if carried through would lead to a complaint to the ACCC", said Jeff Angel, Convenor, Boomerang Alliance.

"In the latest media release from the front group 'Responsible Recycling' Coca Cola and Fosters claim the NT handling fee will be ten cents. This would be at least five times higher than South Australia's and twenty times higher than any CD scheme in the US. Nor have the companies produced any evidence for their claim."

“87% of Territorians live in Darwin, Palmerston, Katherine and Alice Springs and the economics of the scheme should not differ much from other population centres with container deposits.”

“These large urban communities will have ready and easy access to privately funded and operated recycling facilities and the commodity markets for their used containers within the Territory, Australia or Asia”, said Angel.

We can cite three examples to disprove the claims of Coke and Fosters:

- The so called handling fee paid to recyclers in South Australia to collect, process and transport used bottles and cans is generally acknowledged to be between one and two cents per container after the sale of materials and the return of unredeemed deposits.
- The most recent report for federal, state and territory environment Ministers by the BDA group suggest a national scheme would result in a handling fee, net of material sales and unredeemed deposits of ½ a cent per container.
- The most comprehensive study of the eleven states of the US that employ a CDS demonstrated handling fees of between 0.8 and 0.3 cents per container, net of material sales and unredeemed deposits.

“If the beverage industry intends to ‘price gouge’ Territorians with grossly inflated handling fees we will take a case to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. In the meantime they would be wise to start providing fact-based analysis rather than spin”, said Angel.

Over 300 jobs expected from NT Cash for Containers

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 16 February 2011

The NT Cash for Containers law will not only help reduce litter and increase resource recovery but also create over 300 jobs*, environmentalists said today.

“We’ve looked at the South Australian experience, made some adjustments such as use of automated systems and expect a significant jobs boost. Container deposits is real triple bottom line – good for the environment, the community and charity groups, as well new economic activity,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“We also don’t expect any problems with finding markets for the material collected. Plastic has high value and is attractive to Asian markets as well as domestic producers and glass can be made into new bottles and also used as cheap road base. Container makers in particular recognise the economic savings they make from using this recovered material.”

“The sooner the Cash for Containers law is passed; the quicker we can organise the new depots and reverse vending machines; involve charity groups; and create 300 jobs. The irresponsible campaign by Coke and Fosters against the law needs to be consigned to the dustbin of history,” Mr Angel said.

* Breakdown of estimated positions: 15 Government and ‘Super Collector’ administration positions; 90 positions working in collection centres; 20 position in transport and handling; and 88 positions in sales and service to recyclers (Access Economic 2009 Employment in the Waste and Recycling Sector report for DEWHA estimate that there are 0.8 indirect jobs for every direct job in recycling). Around 100 part time positions will also be created in smaller rural and remote collection centres.

Territorian’s back NT Government on 10cent bottle refund

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 08 February 2011

Territorians overwhelmingly support the NT government’s program to reduce litter and increase recycling of bottles and cans with a ten-cent refund, according to a Newspoll survey released today.

“Despite the TV, radio and newspaper advertising campaign by a front group for Coca Cola, Fosters and Lion Nathan, called ‘Responsible Recycling’, Territorians remain strongly in favour of the government’s introduction of container deposits”, said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

According to the Newspoll survey commissioned by the Boomerang Alliance of environment groups and carried out a week ago:

- 79% of Territorians support the NT government’s plan to introduce a South Australian style 10cent deposit on bottles and cans
- 89% also believe cans and bottles are a litter problem in the NT
- 87% believe a ten cent deposit will encourage more people to recycle these items.

“This survey is proof, if it was required, that Territorians care for their environment and want to play their part in keeping it beautiful”, said Angel.

“Big beer and soft drink companies like Coca Cola and Fosters are not really interested in protecting the NT environment and are intent on denying the NT the economic and employment benefits of the scheme. They have even gone so far as to run a campaign of lies and misleading statements to avoid their responsibility, but Territorians and their parliament are smarter than that”, he said.

Ian Kiernan, Chairman Clean Up Australia said: “In my experience Territorians care very much about their unique and iconic environment. Clean Up Australia’s annual ‘Great Northern Clean Up’ is always well supported by Territorians and every year we pick up thousands of discarded bottles and cans. Iconic tourist destinations will definitely benefit from cash for containers.”

“I can guarantee this litter problem will substantially be a thing of the past with a ten cent deposit on bottles and cans. We’ve seen it in action in SA – it works”, said Kiernan.

[Print](#)

BEVERAGE COMPANIES FUDGE FIGURES ON CASH FOR CONTAINERS AND REMOTE COMMUNITIES SCARE CAMPAIGN

The Australian Food and Grocery Council and Responsible Recycling group, which includes Coke and Fosters, have got it wrong again with their claims about impacts of Cash for Containers on remote communities, environmentalists said today.

“The implication that remote communities will not see benefits from a deposits scheme because it is too expensive or impractical, is grossly wrong,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance. “Pilot schemes have already been operating successfully in remote South Australian communities in the APY lands; and at Lajamanu in the Northern Territory where over 100,000 containers have been redeemed.”

A [backgrounder](#) released by the Alliance today reveals a range of adaptations including freight costs backloaded free of charge, schools as collection points and use of CDEP funds. The program has been embraced by all but one APY community. Kaltjiti School benefited from the return on 22,860 containers for registration fees for sporting clubs, while Iwantja School used \$1500 to buy school children Christmas presents.

“In a classic example of double speak, the so-called Responsible Recycling lobby group has distorted the truth by quoting just one figure from a 2006 report to support their own agenda, exposing once again their total lack of credibility,” Mr Angel said.

Beverage companies’ anti-CD campaign will cost ratepayers

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 27 January 2011

The campaign being run against the NT Cash for Containers by big beverage companies and Australian Food and Grocery Council under the name ‘responsible recycling’ will lead to more costs for councils and ratepayers, environment groups said today.

“Their alternative scheme involves a grant program which recent independent research commissioned by Australia’s environment ministers shows will lead to more costs to local councils.* Nationally there is an increased cost of \$36m per year because the grants do not cover ongoing operating and capital replacement costs,” said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“As well these piecemeal schemes don’t collect a large majority of the containers and thus council litter cleanup costs will continue. The latest collection figures from the Australian Food and Grocery Council for their national public space and retail programs show a miserable 5,000tonnes. Compare this to the extra 330,000tonnes (25,000 in NT) that will be collected by a container deposits system and the answer about what the NT should do is obvious.”

“Research ** released by us last year also shows:

- The scheme will save NT ratepayers some \$540,000 p.a. in charges for kerbside recycling services.
- Cash for Containers will create at least 213 full time and 100 part time jobs in the Territory.
- At least \$7million of new investment capital will be injected into the NT economy as a result, growing the state economy by some \$13.3million per annum.

“The AFGC and beverage companies are seeking to deny Territorians all these benefits,” said Mr Angel.

Food and Grocery Council fear mongering on NT Cash for Containers

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 20 December 2010

The latest allegations from the food and grocery council against the NT's 'cash for containers' legislation are part of a 30 year fear campaign waged against communities and the environment by big beverage companies to avoid responsibility for waste, the Boomerang Alliance said today. We call on MPs to reject the industry's call for delay.

"The AFGC is the mouthpiece for just three beverage companies, Coca Cola, Lion Nathan and Fosters who oppose progressive and successful 'cash for containers' programs," said Robbie Kelman, Campaign Director of the Boomerang Alliance.

"The AFGC say a national scheme would cost \$680m. In fact the latest government report suggests the total financial cost of a national cash for containers scheme to the beverage industry is \$55m or less than half a cent per container!"

"The AFGC claim that a carton of beer will increase by \$5 is misleading nonsense."

"The 10cent deposit or \$2.40 on a case of beer can all be recovered when a consumer does the right thing and recycles their cans or bottles. It's a deposit and gets refunded. But if you want to litter you throw away your ten cents as well – surely a well directed measure that will ensure most containers are returned."

The AFGC say the NT Cash for Containers program will only reduce litter by 6% (by item). In fact Keep Australia Beautiful estimates cans and bottles are 30% of all litter by volume – a better measure of the visual amenity impact of litter.

"The NT is leading Australia in cleaning up its iconic tourist destinations', city and remote communities. The Boomerang Alliance will be campaigning to prevent a handful of anti-environmental drink companies getting in the way of a proven recycling and litter reduction scheme that will also create many new jobs," said Kelman.

packaging industry gets it wrong again

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 05 July 2008

In a paper submitted to the hearings into Australia's waste problem by the Senate Environment Committee, it was revealed industry claims that the best recycling European countries did not have a container deposit scheme – were false.

“The fact is that all of the top six countries have deposit systems, producing the best practice recycling. This is a clear guide to where Australia needs to go,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

The Centre will be giving evidence to the Inquiry at 12.15pm today at Level 2, 190 George St. on container deposits, the crisis in electronic waste and the future of the National Packaging Covenant.

“There has been much debate over the future path of waste in Australia, but the answers are crystal clear. The best way to minimise landfill and boost beverage container recycling rates is the introduction of a container deposit system,” stated Mr. Angel.

“Only 40.8% of containers are currently recycled at a cost of \$175million p.a; a container deposit system would lift recycling rates to approximately 81% and reduce the costs of container litter, waste and recycling by \$85 million p.a.”

“It's not just a question of doing the right thing by the environment, it makes sense economically as well,” stated Mr. Angel.

“Containers are the largest single waste priority; they create nearly 8 times more waste than motor vehicle waste and 50 times more waste than plastic bags. If Australia wants to get serious about minimising waste and increasing recycling, this is the smartest and most effective way to do so.”

inquiry needed into packaging industry blackmail

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 08 July 2009

“We understand that KABC Qld was told it would lose tens of thousands of dollars in support if it publicly supported the introduction of a container deposit system. An independent inquiry is needed,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

Groups such as Coca Cola and the key packaging lobby group, the Packaging Stewardship Forum run out of the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) have been vociferous opponents of container deposits.

“We have a clear understanding that this is about a direct threat to influence an environment group’s public statements and was expressed as such. It was not as stated by the AFGC today, that a container deposit system would inevitably lead to KABC projects becoming irrelevant. After all KABC has a wider agenda than just litter.”

“Australia’s federal and state environment ministers are in the throes of deciding on whether to introduce a container deposit system which would massively increase collection and recycling to over 11 billion beverage containers a year and set up hundreds of local hubs that would also collect other products like used batteries and e-waste.”

“The packaging industry is already using misinformation in the public debate and now appears to have resorted to intimidation and dirty tactics.”

“The behaviour is unacceptable and there should be an independent inquiry into which group or groups acted in this manner,” Mr Angel said.

“We also wonder if this tactic is restricted to the Queensland branch. Other branches should reveal if they have also come under pressure to keep quiet about support for container deposits in return for funding,” Mr Angel concluded.

quit pussyfooting on recycling bonanza

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 17 September 2009

In the latest inquiry the Australian Senate has reported this afternoon that federal and state environment ministers should advance analysis of container deposits schemes ‘without delay’.

“A container deposit system (CDS) will collect 11 billion containers a year,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre. “It will underwrite thousands of new convenient waste collection centers, not only for beverage containers but also problem products like batteries and electronic waste.

“CD will also deliver well over 3,000 new jobs; \$500million of new economic activity each year; and a surplus of \$50million to invest in waste reprocessing to help cut our greenhouse footprint by well over 1million tones.”

Dave West, National Campaign Director of the Boomerang Alliance, called on government to stop pussyfooting and get on with one of the most important recycling decisions in decades.

“The public has been waiting ten years for action. Poll after poll shows that the community demands a container deposit scheme. It’s time for government to stop listening to the beverage industry which thrusts one way containers onto the community as well as massively increasing waste dumping,” said Mr West.

“On 6 November every Commonwealth, state and territory environment minister will be meeting in Perth to decide on container deposits. It’s time for environment ministers, in particular from NSW and Victoria, to stop passing the buck.”

Previous CD reports to government are – Independent review of container deposits legislation in NSW (2001); Stakeholder Advisory Group on Best Practice CDS for Western Australia (2007); Feasibility of a CDS for Tasmania (2009); Senate Inquiry into the Management of Australia's Waste Streams (2008); Senate Inquiry into Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill (2009).

FOI on crucial CD report quashed

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 06 May 2010

Refusal by officials to release a key report commissioned by environment ministers into a national container deposit system has aroused suspicions of bureaucratic obstruction, Total Environment Centre said today.

“Our freedom of information request for the report which assesses the public’s willingness to pay for a CD system was rejected recently on the basis that the report was in draft form and the committee of bureaucrats has not yet met to consider it. Their last meeting was October 2009 and we believe the extensive delays are unjustified,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre.

“Federal and state ministers had committed to meet ‘out of session’ after receiving draft results last November in the expectation that a final report was not far way. Now it’s been almost six months of delay. The longer we wait for a decision, that’s another 6 billion beverage containers to landfill a year.”

“The report by Price Waterhouse Coopers is a crucial missing link in the assessment of benefits and costs of a container deposit system. It seeks to quantify

the public's willingness to pay for improved recycling and the controversial 'inconvenience' cost. The willingness to pay increases the benefits while inconvenience (if it exists) increases the costs, in economic analysis."

"They are both big figures and have a major bearing on the economic case for container deposits," said Mr Angel.

"We call on the bureaucrats to stop stuffing around. The NEPC Service Corporation that services the ministers' Environment Protection and Heritage Council has told us they expect a decision by key bureaucrats on release by 21 May – but there's no guarantee it will be made public."

CD - Northern Territory move welcomed

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 06 May 2010

The announcement by the NT Environment Minister's office today of their new container deposit system is a positive step for the NT environment and should be another step towards a national system, Boomerang Alliance said today.

"With legislation for their "cash for containers" system to be drafted this year and implementation at end of 2011 the NT community is on the way to high recycling rates, more green jobs and big reductions in litter," said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Alliance and Director of Total Environment Centre.

"This move should only further strengthen the signal to the Federal Government that this is the right way for the whole of Australia to go. National Container Deposit legislation is long overdue."

"Local governments want CD, environment groups want CD, and recent research shows that the general community wants action and is willing to pay the tiny increase (half a cent) in purchase price to make it work."

"It is the most effective way we know of achieving return rates of at least 80% of beverage containers, as South Australia has demonstrated for so long now," said Jeff Angel.

"Today's NT move shows the national decision process is moving too slowly, along with the recent rejection of our FOI request for a crucial national CD report due to bureaucratic inertia."

“It’s time the state and federal governments released the Choice Modeling study and got on with a Regulatory Impact Statement. The Commonwealth should be taking the lead on this issue”, Mr Angel said.”

container deposits bonanza suppressed

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 28 June 2010

Crucial information that shows \$650mpa of significant economic benefits from the introduction of container deposits into Australia is being hidden from the public, environmentalists alleged today.

“Our FOI has been rejected: the NSW government has opposed its release to the NSW Parliament, and now the Federal Government has refused a demand by the Senate. With environment ministers due to meet next week to decide the future of container deposits it’s essential such information is released to the public,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre. “What do they have to hide?”

“We understand the report proves the public is willing to support container deposits (CDS) and estimates the economic value of reducing litter and saving resources at over \$650m. Further, the public is not inconvenienced by having to return bottles and cans to get the deposit back. If you apply this to recent economic studies* of the costs of having a CDS, then a CDS would be worth several hundred million dollars a year to the nation.”

“We challenge the ministers to release the report before they meet instead of hiding it. There are claims it is only a final draft but this is just another ploy to prevent its release,” Mr Angel said.

The Ministers are meeting in Darwin on 5 July to decide whether to commission a regulatory impact statement into container deposits, the final formal step before its introduction.

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ministers must act on container deposits

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 29 June 2010

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"It's time for a new green collection system that can be established by the private sector leaving government to regulate a CDS, rather than investing in new infrastructure or imposing a new tax," said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre and Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

"A CDS in Australia will produce a major reduction in litter; significant financial benefits to charities; up to 2,000 new jobs; an 80% recycling rate of containers; and hundreds of convenient drop-off centres not only for containers but also for other problem wastes such as batteries and electronic items."

"It makes economic and environmental sense," Mr Angel added. "The Ministers need to stop doing time delaying studies and instead listen to the community and start making decisions."

The environment groups also hit back at industry claims that a container deposits system will be expensive.

"Industry is not presenting the full picture of all the economic evaluations of costs and benefits. It is using the data selectively. Our latest report on NSW takes account of the public's assessment of the dollar value of environmental benefits, zero inconvenience cost and the latest adjustment to the BDA study," said Mr Angel.

"Also the cheaper methods the beverage companies are touting don't work. They propose a tax which will not significantly increase container recycling, and will be passed onto consumers including those who do the right thing and recycle. The other suggestion of more bins in public spaces is equally inappropriate. They are never used properly and contain a lot of contamination that prevents bottles and cans from being recycled."

"A ten cent deposit is a far better incentive, and it's been proved all over the world that it works. And contrary to industry claims people are smart enough to know it's not a real price increase."

Container Deposits Key issue in federal and state elections

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 30 June 2010

Key environment and local government groups today declared that the introduction of a container deposits system (CDS) would be an important issue in the coming federal, Victorian and New South Wales Elections.

They urged Peter Garrett to take the lead after previous meetings of environment ministers engaged in excuses and delay. Minister Garrett needs to fix this appalling buck passing next Monday when the Ministers meet again, the groups said.

“Politicians can only ignore the public’s strong support for CD for so long – and the coming federal and state elections will be a proving ground for their positions. We are disappointed that Minister Garrett and his state colleagues have been sitting on this issue,” said Dave West National Campaign Director of the Boomerang Alliance.

“So far we have seen governments dither – but next week’s meeting of environment ministers in Darwin will be a test of where they want to go – allow 6 billion beverage containers to litter the landscape or be landfilled each year or introduce a CDS that solves the problem and provides several hundred million dollars of benefit to the Australian community and economy and some 1,200 new green jobs across the country,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre and Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

“In Victoria we’ve seen strong support from the Greens and the Coalition for container deposits. At the Darwin meeting the Brumby Government needs to back container deposits or risk it becoming a major environment issue at November’s state election,” said Mark Wakeham, Campaign Director of Environment Victoria.

“There have been positive discussions in New South Wales with the Greens and the Opposition but the Keneally government is acting like a headless chicken. If it wants to have any chance of improving its polling position it will have to wholeheartedly and consistently adopt strong environmental policies. It couldn’t go wrong by supporting container deposits,” Mr Angel said.

Supporting the call to action, Ian Kiernan, Chairman and founder of Clean Up Australia noted that 40 per cent of the rubbish that Clean Up Australia Day volunteers remove from environment each year relates to beverage containers.

“The public is very much behind a refund scheme. National research conducted for Clean Up Australia in 2009 found that 88 per cent of people support the introduction of a 10 cent refund for drink cans and bottles,” said Mr Kiernan.

“And the community, our politicians claim to represent has had enough of the rhetoric and the endless reports being put between them and a decision.”

The groups will also be launching a Facebook Page, ‘Cash for Containers Campaign’ as part of ramping up public engagement over the next 12 months.

Container Deposits Win Win

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 05 July 2010

Australia’s environment ministers made an historic step towards a Container Deposit System today. Peter Garrett announced the Ministers’ decision in Darwin after the EPHC.

"We welcome this significant step towards a national container deposit system," said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre and Convener of the Boomerang Alliance. "The government is to be congratulated for preferring an evidenced based approach instead of a process open to negative beverage industry influence."

Clean Up Australia applauds this decision," agreed Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman and founder of Clean Up Australia. "It shows that our political leadership is listening to the concerns of the Australian community in taking action on waste management reform."

Mr. Angel pointed out that South Australia already has container deposits and the Northern Territory will have soon, not to mention many countries including the USA - all with massive public support and an 80% recycling rate.

"The environmental and economic benefits have been proved a reality. The Boomerang Alliance is willing to participate in the process announced by the Ministers today if it is independent, balanced and grounded by real results - not esoteric economic theory and unfounded fears."

Mr Angel said a new green collection system should be established by the private sector, "leaving government to regulate a CDS, rather than investing in new infrastructure or imposing a new tax." "A CDS in Australia will produce a major reduction in litter; significant financial benefits to charities; up to 2,000 new jobs; an 80% recycling rate of containers; and hundreds of convenient drop-off centres not only for containers but also for other problem wastes such as batteries and electronic items"

“We urge the government to maintain its momentum by committing to a timetable to make this scheme a reality across the rest of Australia,” said Mr. Kiernan.

Councils should not pay for beverage industry litter

[Print](#)

Details

Created: 19 October 2010

The Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW (LGSA) and the Boomerang Alliance are calling on the Federal and State Environment Ministers to remain firmly focused on the issue of container deposit legislation (CDL) when they meet in Sydney early next month.

The Ministers will meet on November 4th at the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) meeting to decide what will be included in a review of packaging waste.

President of the Local Government Association of NSW, Cr Genia McCaffery, said the alternatives options being proposed - start-up grants from a packaging tax or the Australian Packaging Covenant - by some beverage industry groups and government agencies will impose significant costs on to Local Government.

“The alternative options being proposed are unacceptable, particularly since a container deposit system would save councils up to \$32 million a year,” said Cr McCaffery.

“If a packaging tax was introduced, councils and ratepayers would still be bearing the cost of delivering recycling for commercial and public space waste collections, and we’d continue to have a low return rate of drink containers,” she said.

“A container deposit system is a much more sensible and smarter option. It’s a direct user pay initiative that provides a strong incentive to recycle and raises awareness of the use of containers.”

President of the Shires Association, Cr Bruce Miller, said that CDL would bring a range of economic and environmental benefits if implemented in NSW.

“NSW councils have always been supportive of introducing CDL, as it provides multiple benefits for councils and their communities and has been extremely successful in places like the USA, Canada and Europe, as well as South Australia,” said Cr. Miller.

“A container deposit system would create hundreds of new drop-off centres across Australia at no cost to governments,” he said.

“It would also have enormous environmental benefits by reducing litter, pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and landfill.”

Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre and Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance, said they are calling on the Ministers to not be blinded by alternative options being proposed by the beverage industry.

“It’s just another way for polluting beverage companies to avoid their responsibility and cost shift to councils and ratepayers,” said Mr. Angel.

MINISTERS SHOULD ACT ON CONTAINER DEPOSIT PLUSES

MEDIA RELEASE

29 June

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“It makes economic and environmental sense,” Mr Angel added. “The Ministers need to stop doing time delaying studies and instead listen to the community and start making decisions.”

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GOVERNMENT CONTAINER DEPOSITS REPORT

SHOWING \$650M IN SAVINGS KEPT SECRET

MEDIA RELEASE

28 June 2010

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“Our FOI has been rejected; the NSW government has opposed its release to the NSW Parliament; and now the Federal Government has refused a demand by the Senate. With environment ministers due to meet next week to decide the future of container deposits it’s essential such information is released to the public – what do they have to hide?,” asked Jeff Angel Director of Total Environment Centre.

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MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2010

**CONTAINER DEPOSITS MAKES CENTS IN NT
AND AUSTRALIA**

The announcement by the NT Environment Minister's office today of their new container deposit system is a positive step for the NT environment and should be another step towards a national system, Boomerang Alliance said today.

"With legislation for their "cash for containers" system to be drafted this year and implementation at end of 2011 the NT community is on the way to high recycling rates, more green jobs and big reductions in litter," said Jeff Angel, Convenor of the Alliance and Director of Total Environment Centre.

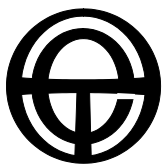
"This move should only further strengthen the signal to the Federal Government that this is the right way for the whole of Australia to go. National Container Deposit legislation is long overdue."

"Local governments want CD, environment groups want CD, and recent research shows that the general community wants action and is willing to pay the tiny increase (half a cent) in purchase price to make it work."

"It is the most effective way we know of achieving return rates of at least 80% of beverage containers, as South Australia has demonstrated for so long now," said Jeff Angel.

"Today's NT move shows the national decision process is moving too slowly, along with the recent rejection of our FOI request for a crucial national CD report due to bureaucratic inertia."

"It's time the state and federal governments released the Choice Modeling study and got on with a Regulatory Impact Statement. The Commonwealth should be taking the lead on this issue", Mr Angel said."



MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2010

FOI request for crucial Container Deposit report rejected

Refusal by officials to release a key report commissioned by environment ministers into a national container deposit system has aroused suspicions of bureaucratic obstruction, Total Environment Centre said today.

“Our freedom of information request for the report which assesses the public’s willingness to pay for a CD system was rejected recently on the basis that the report was in draft form and the committee of bureaucrats has not yet met to consider it. Their last meeting was October 2009 and we believe the extensive delays are unjustified,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of Total Environment Centre.

“Federal and state ministers had committed to meet ‘out of session’ after receiving draft results last November in the expectation that a final report was not far way. Now it’s been almost six months of delay. The longer we wait for a decision, that’s another 6 billion beverage containers to landfill a year.”

“The report by Price Waterhouse Coopers is a crucial missing link in the assessment of benefits and costs of a container deposit system. It seeks to quantify the public’s willingness to pay for improved recycling and the controversial ‘inconvenience’ cost. The willingness to pay increases the benefits while inconvenience (if it exists) increases the costs, in economic analysis.”

“They are both big figures and have a major bearing on the economic case for container deposits,” said Mr Angel.

“We call on the bureaucrats to stop stuffing around. The NEPC Service Corporation that services the ministers’ Environment Protection and Heritage Council has told us they expect a decision by key bureaucrats on release by 21 May – but there’s no guarantee it will be made public.”



Media Release

6 August 2009

Litter results reveal recycling challenge

The National Litter Index reveals an ongoing problem with litter, Total Environment Centre said today.

“It’s the tip of the iceberg of how we need to do a lot more on recycling of packaging. And it’s unfortunate that in their single minded opposition to container deposits, the Food and Grocery Council seek to pervert the message the Index gives,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Centre.

“The beverage litter problem was initially caused by the introduction of one-way containers by the food industry. Shifting the blame entirely to consumers and suggesting, as the producers do that litter is the main problem, is absurd.”

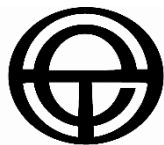
“The aim of a litter program or waste collection service should be to increase recycling, that is recovery and reprocessing to save resources and reduce the pollution and energy used in manufacture of new packaging and other materials. Just because litter may be reported as down does not mean it is being recycled. Hopefully if the data is correct, it is being put into a bin.

Unfortunately this usually means extensive contamination and loss of recyclable materials to landfill,” Mr Angel said.

“Container deposit systems (CDS) reduce litter and massively increase recycling. They also form the backbone of a second tier recycling system to kerbside with hundreds of local hubs that can receive other problem materials such as e-waste and batteries. It’s a far better system than so-called public space recycling bins.”

“The recent economic study into container deposits commissioned by the country’s environment ministers revealed that a CDS would cost an insignificant half a cent a container. It would be a far more sustainable system than ad hoc grants, litter police and other such programs that are victims of government budget fluctuations. ”

“The AFGC don’t get it. However local councils in Victoria, NSW and elsewhere do and they support container deposits as an essential part of the solution to the waste–litter- recycling challenge.”



TOTAL ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

MEDIA RELEASE

20th May 2009

CONTAINER DEPOSITS – NOT JUST ABOUT LITTER

A network of hundreds of drop-in centers for electronic waste, light bulbs and batteries, could be created by a national container deposit system (CDS) leading to big environmental and economic benefits, Total Environment Centre (TEC) said today.

“CDS is not just about litter,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre. “It lays a sustainable financial basis for convenient drop-off systems for other products like electronic waste that people want recycled. This already occurs in South Australia where over 24,000 tonnes are collected each year. Major businesses like Sims and Global Renewables support such a system.

Mr Angel said beverage companies and environment ministers that oppose CDS “are standing in the way of a 21st century recycling system that will collect 11 billion containers a year and hundreds of thousands of tonnes of other products; create over 2,000 jobs and generate over \$100 million (net) each year for federal, state and local governments.

“There are no political, economic and environmental downsides to the scheme, and Federal and state environment ministers who are meeting in Hobart this Friday should grasp this opportunity.”

The scheme has the support of key businesses such as SIMs, Global Renewables, and the Australian Battery Recycling Initiative. Extracts from letters to TEC follow:

Wayne Richardson, President, Australian Battery Recycling Initiative said: “the predominance of kerbside recycling within Australia has meant that the development of convenient and accessible recycling hubs for other items not collected as part of household recycling services has been neglected....computers, electrical appliances, mobile phones, other e-wastes, beverage containers, light globes and plastic bags would benefit from a shared product/shared brand platform for reverse logistics.”

John Lawson, General Manager Development, Global Renewables agreed that “if this return infrastructure is appropriately designed and located, itcould provide for the efficient consolidation and return of products which are at the same time hazardous and valuable - gas bottles, lead acid batteries, post-consumer pharmaceuticals, household hazardous chemicals, paints and solvents, and so on.”

Kumar Radhakrishnam, Sims, Vice President APAC said “we see no reason why e-waste and beverage container recyclers cannot work together - a system of suburban container depots which could also be used for non-bulky electronic waste such as mobile phones, home telephones, batteries, chargers etc is a welcome idea... and recyclers have the necessary infrastructure to treat this appropriately.”

MEDIA RELEASE – THURSDAY 29TH JANUARY 2009

KELLY HOWLETT

CHAIRPERSON

CARE FOR HEDLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 436, PORT HEDLAND

(MOB) 04399 41431

Cash For Trash – 10c Glass Bottles Refund Pilot To Take Place In Port Hedland

The Hedland Tidy Towns Committee has taken their fight against the scourge of street litter one step further with an ambitious trial program that will see residents and community groups refunded 10c per whole glass beverage bottle returned to nominated collection points throughout the Town of Port Hedland.

An initiative of the Care For Hedland Environmental Association and proudly supported by the Town of Port Hedland, BHP Billiton Iron Ore, South Hedland New Living Program, North West Telegraph, Spirit Radio, CMA Recycling, Transpacific Cleanaway, Pilbara Logistics and McDonalds will see a Western Australian first; 10c per whole glass bottle, \$6 per bag of aluminium cans and \$5 per bag of street litter paid directly to residents and community groups.

The Cash For Trash Pilot will take place for two months, commencing on Clean Up Australia Day (Sunday 1st March 2009) and concluding Saturday 2nd May 2009.

Care For Hedland Environmental Association Chairperson Kelly Howlett hopes that by conducting this Pilot for two months some good data will be collected and a noticeable difference made to local Hedland streets. “Last year during school visits with Captain Clean Up I was shocked that each time every single child in the audience put their hand up saying they had been hurt by broken glass when playing in our streets and parks. This highlighted that while to date some good initiatives have been put in place, more needed to be done. By directly putting an attractive financial value on whole glass bottles, it is hoped that this will go some way to stopping them being smashed and get them off our streets and footpaths” said Ms Howlett.

This Pilot is also an extension of the current \$5 per bag offered by the Town of Port Hedland for the collection of street litter. Though with incentives in place that focuses on glass and aluminium, this acts to promote recycling and is seen as a positive step in that direction for the Town of Port Hedland. Town of Port Hedland Mayor Stan Martin supports this landmark initiative for the Town. “Providing the community with an incentive to recycle instead of littering is a huge step in the right direction. Now instead of seeing a bottle on the ground, residents will see a 10c piece” said Mayor Martin.

The payment of monies for the return of glass bottles currently only takes place in South Australia. It is something that has long been campaigned for in Western Australia and it is hoped that the results of this Pilot may go some way in helping Western Australia go in this direction. Already authorities have noticeably seen the difference the

refund scheme has made in South Australia. Litter collection statistics in South Australia show that the number of glass beverage containers found in the environment has dropped to just 10% of all litter collected. It is hoped that the same dramatic decrease in the amount of glass collected in the environment and on streets can be achieved in Hedland.

With the commencing of the Pilot coinciding with the national Clean Up Australia Day initiative, event founder Ian Kiernan OAM has also thrown his support behind the Hedland initiative. "The introduction of a national container deposit scheme similar to that already in place in South Australia is the way forward for Australia on recycling, but without national action it's up to our communities to take their own action – as the people of Hedland are doing. Last year during Clean Up Australia Day a quarter of all rubbish found in Western Australia was related to beverage containers – that's over 130 tonnes of rubbish. I whole heartedly support this initiative and I congratulate all involved on taking such a positive step towards protecting our environment" said Mr Kiernan.

The community collection points will be:

- Port Hedland Boulevard Shopping Centre, Port Hedland
- Shay Gap Park, South Hedland
- Daylesford Park, South Hedland
- South Hedland Shopping Centre, South Hedland

At these collection points between 9am-11am on the below dates, residents and community groups (excepting bars, hotels, cafes and restaurants) will be able to bring their whole glass bottles for 10c per bottle, bag of aluminium cans for \$6 and bag of street litter (no household litter permitted) for \$5. Cash will be paid directly on the day. No cheques and no waiting periods.

Dates for payments:

- Sunday 1st March 2009
- Saturday 7th March 2009
- Saturday 21st March 2009
- Saturday 4th April 2009
- Saturday 18th April 2009
- Saturday 2nd May 2009

Gloves, bags and crates will be supplied for individuals and groups in the collection of street litter, can and glass bottles. To register for these please contact Care For Hedland Environmental Association (ph) 08 9172 2254 or email: cleanuphedland2009@hotmail.com

Media Release 15 April 2008 The Boomerang Alliance:

• Australian Conservation Foundation • Arid Lands Environment Centre • CleanUp Australia • Conservation Council of South Australia • Conservation Council of Western Australia • Environment Centre of the Northern Territory • Environment Tasmania • Environment Victoria • Friends of the Earth • Greenpeace Australia Pacific • Local Government & Shires Association of NSW • NSW Nature Conservation Council • Queensland Conservation Council • Tasmanian Conservation Trust • Total Environment Centre •

Big Benefits from Recycling Bottles and Cans

Environment groups are calling on state and federal environment ministers to back South Australia's plan to introduce a national deposit on drink bottles and cans, as Australia's waste crisis worsens, when all state and federal environment ministers meet to discuss the proposal and other major waste issues, in Melbourne this Thursday.

A new study produced by The Boomerang Alliance shows that our precious kerbside recycling system is making significant losses and container deposits will make it more financially viable.

"Local councils and ratepayers are footing a massive annual bill to deal with the 8.3billion drink bottles we consume each year" said Jeff Angel Director of Total Environment Centre. "Residents are forking out over \$257million a year to deal with bottle and can waste and that's just for 40% of our containers, with the rest going to landfill. Also more beverages are

consumed 'away from home' (food halls, restaurants, public spaces) where there is no recycling system. We have to get a better solution to stop the waste of resources which will also help reduce greenhouse gas pollution."

"Container Deposits are a proven and effective tool that have been in place for over 30 years in South Australia, there is far less litter, they have recycling rates that are double the rest of the country and the public love the initiative said Angel.

The beverage industry has been lobbying governments not to accept the South Australian call claiming it would cost Australian households.

"Sure the price of a bottle or can of drink will go up by 10¢ but it's temporary - you get that back" said Angel "its pretty simple really, you stop off at the recycling centre located in the supermarket car park and drop off your containers. And it helps to make kerbside more viable because, as in South Australia, those who don't want the deposit and put the container out for collection are making a donation to the council recycling system which gets the money instead."

The economic study 'Financial Analysis of Costs and Benefits of a National Container Deposit System' was produced to rebut industry's misleading claims and shows that South Australia's proposal will:

- ⌚ Double bottle and can recycling rates;
- ⌚ Reduce the amount of waste to landfill by over 630,000 tonnes per annum;
- ⌚ Reduce recycling costs by over \$84million and also save ratepayers another \$59million a year.
- ⌚ the public understand, that they pay a 10¢ deposit up front and if they can get a refund when they return their containers, around 90% are happy to do so.

"Doubling the amount of aluminium, glass and plastic containers we recycle will have huge environmental benefits. The greenhouse gas reductions alone are about the same as switching every house in Canberra over to renewable energy" said lead author Boomerang Alliance National Campaign Director Dave West.

"Container Deposits will also produce enough water savings are enough to permanently supply over 16,000 homes and improve air quality by the equivalent of taking 141,000 cars off the road" said West.

The analysis also highlighted that if the current strategy of the controversial National Packaging Covenant is implemented, the costs to local government and the community of managing packaging waste and litter will increase by over \$222million pa.

"Our analysis shows us that Container Deposits will provide the single biggest stimulus to recycling we have seen in 20 years; if governments want to lift recycling rates they have only two choices - introduce Container Deposits, which will double recycling and save money; or place a \$300million levy on all bottles and cans to cover council and other costs and get maybe half the results," said West.

News Release

www.ministers.sa.gov.au



Hon Gail Gago

Minister for Environment and
Conservation

Minister for Mental Health and
Substance Abuse

Minister Assisting the Minister for Health

EMBARGOED UNTIL: Thursday, 10 April 2008

SA LEADS NATIONAL PUSH FOR CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION

South Australia will be pushing for national adoption of container deposit legislation when Australian and New Zealand Environment Ministers meet in Melbourne next Thursday.

Minister for Environment and Conservation Gail Gago says "South Australia took the lead on industry responsibility for clean up and recycling of beverage containers 31 years ago and it's time for the rest of Australia to catch up."

Minister Gago has recommended Ministers agree to look at how to introduce a national container deposit system, taking into account the success of the SA scheme and the results of investigations undertaken for a similar scheme in WA.

"SA's record speaks for itself, recycling considerably more than any other Australian State," says Ms Gago.

"For 31 years we've heard the beverage industry argue why other States can't introduce a container deposit scheme, but now it's time to act.

"This week there are claims from the Total Environment Centre and other bodies that a National Packaging Covenant agreed between industry, States and Commonwealth is reportedly failing to meet a targeted 65 per cent reduction in the amount of packaging disposed to landfill with claims that a recent audit is showing less than half was recycled.

"In SA we recycle one third more aluminium cans than other States and 85 per cent of glass soft drink bottles, compared to 36 per cent nationally. Here beverage containers make up less than 20 per cent of litter by volume compared to 50 per cent in other States.

"Australians would clearly welcome this with a nationwide Newspoll survey commissioned last year as part of the Clean Up Australia Day campaign finding that 82 per cent of respondents considered a 10-cent deposit would encourage more people to recycle bottles and cans.

"In SA a 2004 community awareness survey showed that 92% of respondents support CDL."

A national scheme would:

- significantly reduce the waste stream of particular products,

- promote sustainable economic activities,
- result in a more equitable and effective waste management regime,
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions and water and energy use,
- support resource recovery and reuse and
- engage Australians in a popular program of environmentally sustainable behaviour.

SA is offering to lead the development of the implementation details for a proposed national scheme.

South Australia recently flagged a doubling in the container deposit from its original 5c to 10c per container to stem a recent decline in return rates. This will be effective before the end of the year.

MORE RECYCLING TARGETS BROKEN

7 April 2008

The National Packaging Covenant will fail to achieve the target for preventing more packaging to landfill, it was revealed today. This is the second breach of the NPC, after revelations that it had wrongly reported recycling figures.

“There has been little to no progress under the Covenant” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre and community representative on the NPC.

“A primary target of the National Packaging Covenant is ‘no new packaging to landfill’ so that consumption and population growth did not make the packaging waste problem worse. However, this has already been exceeded. Unless immediate action is taken, by 2010 we estimate the amount of packaging rubbish that is littered or landfilled will be well over 2.3million tonnes per annum – several hundred thousand tonnes more than allowed.”

“Taken together with wrongly reported recycling figures, the NPC is now in crisis. When the Covenant Council produced its draft 2005-06 annual report we told them the figures were inflated but were ignored; our assertions have now been shown to be true. How can governments allow this sort of exaggeration to be printed under their name?” asked Angel.

“The NPC Annual Report was published citing national recycling rates for packaging as 56%. The review showed that at best recycling rates were 47.1% and the author of the original report Mr Russ Martin of MS2 (and Hyder Consulting) in response inflated the figure for 2006 to 58%. He also concedes that if figures for newsprint and office paper are removed, in reality the rates are even worse with an appalling 43%. The ‘errors’ are unacceptable,” said Dave West, National Campaign Director for the Boomerang Alliance.

“This has been a feature of NPC reporting ever since it has used Martin’s data. During negotiations to renew the controversial NPC in 2005 Martin’s data consistently overstated recycling rates using industry figures to exaggerate the sector’s recycling performance.”

Green groups today called for Martin and MS2 to be sacked from its current role as assessors of Australian packaging recycling rates.

“MS2 needs to be replaced; its principal Russ Martin places far too much faith in industry’s claims to be seen as independent. These reports are used to assess whether government should regulate industry. Letting packaging companies decide what our recycling rates are is like letting criminals sit on a parole board’ said West.

The Boomerang Alliance renewed its calls for national and state environment ministers to introduce a National Container Deposit System whereby consumers receive an incentive to recycle. The ministers meet in Melbourne on 17 April to discuss the future of the Covenant.

The performance of the NPC is shown below:

Material	2005 Agreed Baseline	Russ Martin's estimate for NPC 2006 Annual Report (2005 Performance)	Pitcher Partners/Industry Edge Suggested adjustment to Martins figures	NPC Targets for Mid term review (I.E. By the end of 2008 the NPC needs to demonstrate that it is on track to deliver these recycling rates by 2010):
Packaging & Industrial Paper	64.19%	65.30%	47.10%	70-80%
Glass Packaging	35.29%	44.23%	36.39%	50-60%
Steel Cans	44%	37.62%	37.62%	60-65%
Aluminium Beverage Containers	63.40%	71.30%	71.30%	70-75%
Sub Total - Plastics	20.57%	30.52%	30.52%	30-35%
Total Packaging	47.61%	55.49%	43.00%	65%

- Glass recycling rates had been overstated by some 70,000 tonnes per annum because glass recycling had ‘accidentally’ included the glass recovered in New Zealand;
- Paper and cardboard packaging rates had been ‘accidentally’ overstated to include estimated recycling by 263,408 tonnes per annum.

First Steps Up To Boost Recycling

Environment groups have today welcomed the legislative proposal by Family First Senator Steve Fielding regarding the establishment of a national recycling scheme of drink containers.

The Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008 aims to develop a national scheme broadly similar to the one which currently operates in South Australia whereby consumers receive a refund every time they recycle a drink container.

“Senator Fielding’s Bill adds to the growing momentum that is putting container deposits on the national waste agenda. South Australians are among the best recyclers in the world, they recycle at least 50% more materials than any other Australian state and one of the big contributing factors to this is the recycling refund,” said Jeff Angel, National Convenor of the Boomerang Alliance.

Since 1977, South Australia has been offering consumers a refund of 5c for every drink container deposited for recycling which has recently been increased to 10c per container to continue encouraging good recycling behaviour.

“If this becomes a national scheme, recycling rates would be expected to increase dramatically and the benefit to the environment will be invaluable.”

Research by the Boomerang Alliance has found a national deposit recycling scheme will save at least 300,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases a year, as well as the average family being able to save about \$30 on kerbside recycling every year.

“We would like to congratulate Family First for taking this initiative, especially when state and national governments are right now looking at these issues, Mr. Angel.

In a national poll conducted last year for Clean Up Australia, 82 per cent of people said they believed a 10-cent refund scheme should be established across the country.

MEDIA RELEASE

12/02 /08: For Immediate Release

The Boomerang Alliance:

South Australian continues to lead nation on recycling

Environment groups today congratulated the South Australian Government on its decision to stand up to the beverage industry and increase its deposit on drink containers from 5¢ to 10¢.

The decision follows intense lobbying from the beverage industry not to increase the deposit. A study undertaken by Hyder Consulting last year showed that South Australian’s recycle at least 50% more materials than any other state in Australia.

“South Australians are regarded amongst the best recyclers in the world, and their highly successful container deposit legislation has been a key driver in helping people to understand the need to recycle.” said Dave West spokesperson for the Boomerang Alliance.

Boomerang Alliance believe that the deposit needed to be increased following the expansion of the deposit onto a wider range of products such as flavoured milk drinks, where consumers were not yet in the habit of returning their used containers.

“By increasing the deposit the government is simply ensuring that people continue to receive a valuable incentive for their recycling. We congratulate the state government for continuing to ensure South Australia has great recycling rates.” said West.

When the deposit was first introduced 30 years ago the a can of soft drink was worth about 30 cents, today a can of soft drink costs around \$2. If the deposit had kept pace with the increasing prices of drinks, it'd be well over 30¢ now.

In a national poll conducted last year for Clean Up Australia, 82 per cent of people said they believed a 10-cent refund scheme should be established across the country.

Revealed: Beverage Industry Secret Anti Container Deposit Plan in WA

6 July 2006

Despite 92% of West Australian's supporting the WA government's decision to introduce deposits on cans and bottles, industry is planning to kill off this important environmental initiative, according to a leaked document from the beverage and packaging industry.

The industry plan, called, 'Project Jet' aims to undermine the West Australian Government's program and neutralise community support.

“It's certainly a find for us as we now know what the industry is up to. We aren't going to fall for the industry tactics of stalling and injecting misleading information and are determined to engage in an intelligent debate on the best way to introduce container deposits. Industry is trying to avoid responsibility for the waste it creates and is seeking to sabotage the effective introduction of container deposits. We call on the West Australian government to reject the industry plan,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

“For thirty years the beverage and packaging industry have fought against deposits on cans and bottles being introduced in states beyond South Australia, despite the fact South Australia recycles more than double the amount of containers than any other state and has far less litter,” said Ian Kiernan, Chairman Clean Up Australia.

“WA could have clean parks and waterways and the highest rates of recycling in Australia. The Newspan shows the community are willing to play their part in achieving this. It's about time Coca-Cola and other companies in the industry accepted that they and container deposits also have a big role,” said Sue Graham-Taylor, Vice President Conservation Council WA

The Project Jet document outlines a plan to replace a successful container deposit scheme with the failed voluntary approach. It seeks to advance the industry position, including through - pilot programs to slow down implementation; alliances with retailers, waste management providers and

some councils; advocacy to senior decision makers; and a 'time to talk' strategy to neuter community groups, through the new Packaging Stewardship Forum. (**Copies** of the leaked industry plan available from Total Environment Centre).

The Boomerang Alliance also welcomed the appointment of technical consultant Dave West, with a specific expertise in the environment and economic benefits of waste programs, to be based in WA to assist the community groups and government with its inquiry into a best practice CDL model.

Media Release

29 May 2006

WA wants container deposits

A Newspoll has found 94% of the WA population supports the introduction of deposits on containers. The poll carried out in the first half of May is vindication of the WA Government's push on container deposits, the Boomerang Alliance said today.

"It's obvious that people are very worried about litter and waste from beverage containers and will support a successful scheme like the one in South Australia. The result is a big boost to our campaign. The government should take heart and see the results as a great mandate for its current inquiry into a best practice scheme for container deposits," said Sue.....

"The packaging industry, in particular plastics, has been trying to convince the public that a container deposit system won't produce results. However, the community has judged their rhetoric and performance on recycling and they have been found wanting. The industry is out of touch," said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

"Twenty percent of the top ten items removed by volunteers on Clean Up Australia Day are bottles and cans" said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia.

"The South Australian experience suggests that 85% of recyclable containers are returned through their deposit program.

"This clearly demonstrates that our current methods of waste disposal are unsustainable and we need to shift people's attitudes towards waste being a resource that has financial value. A Container Deposit System is a positive shift in this direction."

The Newspoll was undertaken over two weekends in May (5-7, 12-14) of a representative sample of the West Australian adult population. See attached briefing note.

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 14 April 2005

Packaging Industry Called to Account Ministers act to introduce high recycling targets

Community groups around Australia have applauded a call from NSW and Victorian Environment Ministers to introduce high minimum recycling standards for bottles, cans and cardboard.

The Boomerang Alliance – a coalition of over 250 environment groups and 200 local councils – has been urging ministers to revise the National Packaging Covenant to significantly raise the

bar for recycling and make a real impact on the amount of litter and waste polluting our public spaces and waterways. Meeting in Darwin today, Ministers Thwaites and Debus led a call for a minimum recycling rate for all packaging products of 65% by 2010.

Alliance spokesperson Dave West said the Ministers' proposed targets, coupled with strict performance requirements for poor recyclers in the glass and plastics sectors, were a huge step in the right direction.

"These targets will ensure that beverage manufacturers, retailers and consumers now have to take steps to drastically reduce the amount of glass and plastic packaging waste that blights the landscape and kills off marine life," West said.

"The beverage industry has been trying to avoid responsibility for its waste for over a decade and the community has had enough. Industry front groups posing as environment organisations, such as the Beverage Industry Environment Council, have spent millions trying to influence the political process and discredit moves to resolve the problem. It's clear that like the community, Ministers are sick of the excuses."

Clean Up Australia chairman Ian Kiernan said the proposed targets were wonderful news for the environment.

"A recent survey commissioned by the Boomerang Alliance revealed a staggering 91 per cent of respondents thought packaging manufacturers and retailers need to take more responsibility for their waste," Kiernan said.

"State governments have responded to the public's concern, and now need to ensure that systems are set in place to fund and implement the new targets, without dumping more costs on ratepayers."

The Alliance cautioned Ministers of the need to ensure that the costs to recycle through the voluntary National Packaging Covenant were not in excess of those seen in traditional approaches like container deposits.

"We are deeply skeptical that industries' proposed plans look much more expensive than a container deposit approach, and little more than a very expensive smoke screen aimed at ensuring the costs of recycling are borne by the community rather than industry," West said. NSW Local Government Association President Cr Genia McCaffery said: "It's time for industry to take on its fair share of the nearly \$300 million cost burden to run kerbside recycling. This has been an unacceptable burden that should now start to lift as we transfer responsibility away from rate payers to consumers and producers of packaging."



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Environment

Thursday April 14 2005

VICTORIA SEEKS STRONG WASTE TARGETS

Victorian Environment Minister John Thwaites will today call for the introduction of tough targets on packaging waste at a meeting of State and Commonwealth Environment Ministers in Darwin.

Speaking ahead of the Environment Protection Heritage Council meeting, Mr Thwaites said the industry must adopt clear and measurable targets to drive further reductions in the amount of packaging going to landfill.

"If these targets aren't met we would have to consider measures such as a container deposit or other measures to drive further recycling," Mr Thwaites said.

Mr Thwaites said the National Packaging Covenant should include a target to achieve a recycling rate of about 65 per cent for packaging – up from the current rate of 48 per cent.

"Australia has a world class recycling system and the Covenant is a mechanism that supports and enhances this system."

"But if we are to get further progress we need to set challenging targets for industry to meet."

"Separate individual targets are also needed for paper, cardboard, glass, aluminium, plastic and steel – with these targets to be developed so they are consistent with an overall figure of about 65 per cent."

Mr Thwaites said if progress under the Covenant was unsatisfactory, the States and Commonwealth should be prepared to implement alternative policies such as container deposits or packaging levies.

"The community has shown its willingness to recycle – we need industry to keep pace with this attitude and make recycling of packaging easier for consumers.

"For example industry should help improve away from home recycling in public places such as shopping centres – where more bins and recycling facilities can be provided.

"They should also continue to improve the packaging itself to reduce waste."

Media contact: Geoff Fraser 9651 5799, 0407 360 256 www.vic.gov.au

ATTORNEY GENERAL MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

13 April 2005

NSW CALLS FOR TOUGH PACKAGING WASTE TARGETS

NSW Environment Minister Bob Debus will push for tough targets for reducing packaging waste when the nation's environment ministers meet in Darwin tomorrow.

Mr Debus has joined Victorian Environment Minister, John Thwaites in pushing the packaging industry to meet strong waste reduction targets as part of negotiations for a new voluntary National Packaging Covenant (NPC).

"The community is calling for industry to play a much more active and responsible role in cutting waste to landfill – it's not good enough to expect mums and dads to do all the work through kerbside recycling," Mr Debus said.

"Industry reaps the profits from selling its packaged products. It must take responsibility when that packaging becomes waste."

Mr Debus said NSW and Victoria are calling on parties negotiating the NPC to work towards an overall recycling rate of 65 per cent by 2010 – up from the current rate of 48 per cent. He also called for separate targets to be developed for paper/ cardboard, glass, aluminium, plastic and steel.

"Some sectors, such as paper and cardboard, are performing much better than others, such as plastics.

"Separate targets for different material types will ensure that the poorer performing sectors can't hide behind the good efforts of other materials under one overall target."

Mr Debus said he would also push for a priority funding plan to be developed to support the Covenant.

"We must also urgently tackle the growing problem of "Away from Home" packaging waste. "This is a priority area for waste reduction targeting commercial office buildings and workplaces, food premises, shopping centres, entertainment and sporting venues.

"Packaging waste – such as food and beverage containers, cardboard boxes and plastic wrapping – is a major source of rubbish, with around one million tonnes generated each year in NSW.

"If industry fails under the covenant, then they face regulation and mandatory schemes under State and Federal environmental laws.

"In NSW we have tough Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws that identify priority wastes of concern.

"Using EPR, we are already moving to develop a mandatory recovery scheme for the computer industry and will use these powers to deal with the problems of packaging waste if needed."

MEDIA RELEASE

22 March 2005

Californian recycling expert urges Australia to take control of waste

Former head of the Californian Department of Conservation Darryl Young today urged Australian businesses to take greater responsibility for packaging waste in front of an audience of 300 attendees at Total Environment Centre/Green Capital's 'Waste Wars' breakfast forum.

Mr Young highlighted California's successful container take-back scheme as an example of producers and consumers working together to increase recycling.

"In Australia, kerbside recycling is funded by ratepayers through councils at a cost of around \$300 million per year, while consumers and producers avoid responsibility for their share of the burden," Mr Young said.

"In contrast, Californian consumers and producers of packaging have shared responsibility for managing packaging waste for the past sixteen years.

"Consumers receive an incentive to recycle via a 4-cent refundable deposit on bottles and cans, with uncollected deposits used to finance recycling facilities, industry development and kerbside services.

"Manufacturers are free to choose their preferred packaging, but must bear the true costs of recycling it via a processing fee which encourages use of materials with low or no recycling costs."

Mr Young highlighted the need to move beyond kerbside recycling alone in order to tackle packaging waste generated away from home.

"Australian consumption of packaged goods away from home now accounts for approximately 50% of the total and continues to grow," he said.

"Kerbside recycling can't tackle this area of consumption. The absence of a deposit incentive means consumers don't bring their containers home."

A new National Packaging Covenant, which guides Australia's treatment of packaging waste, is currently being negotiated between government, industry and environment groups.

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 7 March 2005

Clean Up Australia Day shows urgent action needed on packaging rubbish

Overwhelming amounts of packaging picked up on Clean Up Australia Day show the need for new solutions to reduce the nation's packaging waste problem, according to an Alliance of Australia's leading environment and community groups.

Packaging related items, such as plastic and glass bottles, chip and confectionary packets and

plastic bags, were the most common items found on Sunday. In 2004, packaging accounted for 80% of the total rubbish picked up and it appears this will be mirrored in 2005.

“Despite National Packaging Covenant Council claims that they are making progress on the packaging problem, packaging continues to dominate the litter picked up on Clean Up Australia Day,” said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman of Clean Up Australia and a spokesperson for the Boomerang Alliance.

“The only state winning its war on packaging waste is South Australia, where container deposits have removed drink container rubbish from the streets. The results speak for themselves – only 9.6% of the rubbish collected in South Australia last year was beverage containers compared to the national average of 40%.

“Container deposit legislation has operated successfully in South Australia for 30 years and has been implemented in many European countries, Canadian provinces and U.S. states. It’s long overdue that other Australian states follow South Australia’s lead.”

The Boomerang Alliance is calling for environment ministers to make a generational change with packaging and implement initiatives that can genuinely reduce packaging waste.

“For the past five years, the industry self-regulated National Packaging Covenant has had no impact on reducing the growing avalanche of packaging waste choking our natural environment and killing wildlife,” said Jeff Angel, Director of Total Environment Centre.

“The admirable efforts of Clean Up Australia Day volunteers are continually undermined by waste management policies that let producers and consumers of packaging avoid any responsibility for the rubbish they create.

“It’s time to look at practical ideas such as landfill bans, container deposits, refillable containers and advanced disposal fees that have been successful in reducing packaging waste overseas.” According to the Alliance, an urgent first step is to implement a national Extended Producer Responsibility scheme for packaging, whereby producers are more accountable for the end-of-life fate of their products.

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 31 January 2005

Community groups walk out of national waste negotiations

Community groups today walked out of consultations in Canberra aimed at reducing packaging waste, accusing industry of snubbing the concerns of environment ministers and the public. The groups – including representatives from Clean Up Australia, Environment Victoria and Total Environment Centre – say effective strategies to address Australia’s waste crisis could be derailed if industry continued to ambush the process, delivering tokenistic outcomes.

The National Packaging Covenant Council (NPCC) had failed to follow state and federal environment ministers’ directives to develop firm targets to reduce packaging waste, said the groups.

“Community groups applauded environment ministers’ decision in December last year to set firm targets for reducing packaging waste,” said Jeff Angel, director of Total Environment Centre.

“But today’s crucial meeting to move forward on this directive has been completely sabotaged by industry, who are refusing to take on board any of our concerns, failing to consult with us and failing to set targets.

"The Department of Environment and Heritage bureaucrats are blindly accepting industry's demands, so we were left with no choice but to walk out," said Angel.

Environment Victoria's Zero Waste Campaign Director Jenny Henty said the environment will be the ultimate loser unless future meetings are taken seriously by industry.

"It was total stonewalling by the NPCC. By allowing industry to dominate the agenda, they are betraying not just the community's trust but also the wishes of environment ministers," Jenny said.

"The debate needs to move past mere lip service to a point where practical mechanisms for reducing packaging waste can be effectively considered.

"With pressures on kerbside recycling services and litter pickup growing, and ratepayers footing a massive \$294 million bill to prop up the system, tangible targets such as a minimum 80% packaging recycling rate and establishing mechanisms to ensure greater industry responsibility for waste are vital to achieve any real environmental progress."

A report commissioned by the Boomerang Alliance in December 2004* found that while Australia produces over 3.3 million tonnes of packaging each year, only 20.1% of this is recycled.

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 3 December 2004

Ministers avert waste crisis

Australia is a step closer to zero waste after environment ministers today cracked down on industry in a bid to stop the scourge of rubbish.

An alliance of green groups applauded State and Federal environment ministers who, at a meeting in Melbourne, agreed to set targets to reduce waste from packaging.

The Boomerang Alliance said the agreement was a welcome first step in ending the waste crisis.

"For too long the community has been cleaning up, picking up and paying for damage from packaging that clogs our waterways and litters our parks, beaches and roadsides. It's well overdue that governments make those responsible for packaging waste work with us in dealing with the problem," said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman, Clean Up Australia. ACF Sustainability Campaigner Suzie Brown said: "We are pleased to see that State and Federal environment ministers have shown leadership and supported the need to set high targets."

Environment Victoria Zero Waste Campaign Director Jenny Henty said a Newspoll survey released today showed 91% of respondents thought governments should make those responsible for packaging waste deal with the mess.

"Consumers are faced with an ever-growing avalanche of waste and today's agreement ensures industry will be held to account. Ministers Debus and Thwaites are to be commended," said Ms Henty.

Total Environment Centre Campaigner Jane Castle welcomed the news that the ineffective National Packaging Covenant (NPC) will be boosted with targets.

"We welcome the recognition by State and Federal ministers that targets are required. These must be ambitious and address all materials individually," said Ms Castle.

The Boomerang Alliance said the next step must be for the NPC Council and industry members to negotiate with green groups and local government.

"What we need are practical mechanisms such as landfill bans, deposits, refillables and advanced disposal fees, to tackle packaging waste. Targets will be meaningless if there are no programs in place to reach them," said Ms Castle.

The Boomerang Alliance is a coalition of major environment groups committed to eliminating packaging waste.

MEDIA RELEASE

THE NATIONAL PACKAGING COVENANT IS RUBBISH

19 November 2004: State and Territory Government waste strategies are at risk of being destroyed by a redrafted, industry led National Packaging Covenant (NPC)*, key green groups warned today.

A new alliance of Australia's leading environment groups has called on all State and Territory Governments to reject the NPC model at a meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council in Melbourne on December 3. Ministers at this meeting are set to vote on a framework model for a second NPC drafted by the industry-dominated National Packaging Covenant Council (NPCC).

"States and Territories around Australia are moving ahead with positive waste avoidance and recovery strategies - initiatives like Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia's 'Zero Waste'; the ACT's 'No Waste by 2010'; and NSW's 'Waste Avoidance and Recovery' goals," said Jeff Angel, director of the Total Environment Centre and a spokesman for the Boomerang Alliance.

"In contrast, the industry dominated NPCC has tabled an ineffective and inadequate voluntary national scheme that would lock out real progress in tackling packaging waste for a further five years."

In a letter sent to all State and Territory Environment Ministers and Premiers, the Alliance states: *"The proposed draft for a next-generation NPC ... has betrayed both the process and the positive role we sought to play as stakeholders. It demonstrates the determination of industry to push for a lowest common denominator approach that falls a long way short of the community's expectations on waste."*

Sitting behind this weak and ineffective model are the nation's biggest packaging waste brand names – Coca Cola, Fosters and the major food, beverage and grocery brands, along with the supermarket chains that sell them – and a Federal coalition government happy to give industry a free ride on environment issues from climate change to waste.

"Every year hundreds of thousands of Australians make a huge effort on Clean Up Australia Day. Yet the beverage and packaging industry refuses to take responsibility to help effectively deal with Australia's waste problem," said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman and

Founder of Clean Up Australia.

“What we need from State and Territory Premiers and Environment Ministers is an extension of the start taken on dealing with supermarket plastic bags. It won’t make sense to crack down on plastic bags and then go soft on the vast stream of packaging waste that consumers carry in them as they leave the store!” said Kiernan.