The Convenor,

Standing Council on Environment and Water Secretariat

I would like to add my voice to the need for government to bring in a nationwide **container deposit scheme**, together with other methods of reducing the amount of packaging going to garbage.  The fact that it has worked so successfully in South Australia for many years should be sufficient to over-ride the objections to the manufacturers.

Of course, it would be better if there was less packaging used in the first place.  Toothpaste can be packaged in tubes with a sealed opening and then there is no need for a cardboard outer packaging.  Sales staff should be encouraged to hand the product to the purchaser, rather than ask if they "want a bag".

I find it interesting that councils like to compete with each other over the amount of material they re-cycle.  Yes, better than having items in the general garbage, but they should compete on the percentage of recycled items compared with the items that could have been recycled but were just thrown out.  A CDS would almost eliminate any item being discarded.

Yours sincerely

Fay Briggs