

29 March 2012

Standing Council on Environment and Water Secretariat  
GPO Box 787  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Support for Container Deposit Scheme**

Lismore City Council supports the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme (CDL) as a national measure to increase packaging recovery and decreasing packaging litter. Council believes a CDL is the best option available to reduce packaging litter and can provide local communities significant economic benefit.

The CDL in South Australia is providing diversion from landfill rate of over 80% for recyclable containers. Currently Lismore City Council has a kerbside recycling diversion rate of 74%. A CDL therefore can provide ability for Lismore City Council to improve its existing diversion rate and achieve better environmental outcomes.

The economic benefits include the incentive to create recycling 'hubs' across Australia and therefore expand on existing local recycling networks and facilities. The hub will provide employment and income through the collection fees paid and the sale of containers collected through the scheme.

Lismore City Council is a logical 'hub' host, being a major regional centre and having a significant range of existing accompanying recycling programs. Council believes that since CDL provides the highest rate of beverage recycling, that this is an important component in recycling programs. Up to 36% of the recycling stream by weight is beverage containers (including wine bottles and milk cartons).

Other benefits to council could include:

1. Lower landfill levy costs
2. Cleaner waterways
3. Reduced litter cleanup costs.

The hub will enable residents coming in to collect a container deposit to bring their waste for correct disposal and this will minimise the incidence of roadside dumping. This may enable the diversion rates for other recyclable material to be improved.

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When planning education programs to be run with the implementation of the CDL, it is anticipated that the additional focus will increase the overall awareness of recycling.

Community groups can collect container deposits for the financial benefit to their organisation. This will increase the capacity of local community groups to undertake their valuable work.

While Lismore City Council supports a CDL, a number of potential issues need to be considered to ensure a CDL runs smoothly. Some foreseeable issues include:

1. Education regarding the CDL needs to be clear, consistent and relevant to the other existing recycling systems. People may put all items that do not have container deposit in the waste stream as it has no perceived value and cease to use their current recycle bin correctly.
2. There still needs to be an emphasis on public place waste and recycling infrastructure. Will people bring their bottles home from the beach or park to collect the deposit or will they end up in the waste stream in places where there is no recycling bin?
3. It is important that the Council is not financially disadvantaged by participating in the CDL program. Will the collection fee cover the cost to council?
4. It will be important to prevent drink companies from price gouging. Will the cost of the CDL be absorbed nationally as it is in South Australia? Will this cost add to the cost of all beverages purchased?
5. Border issues need to be addressed. If a CDL is implemented in New South Wales but not Queensland then the issue of containers being transported interstate for deposit redemption could be a significant problem.

Should you require any further information with regard to this matter, please contact Council's Waste Operations Coordinator, Kevin Trustum, on telephone number 1300 87 83 87 during office hours.

Yours faithfully



Cr Jenny Dowell  
**Mayor – Lismore City Council**