

26th March 2012

Standing Council on Environment and Water Secretariat
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
SCEW.Secretariat@environment.gov.au

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulation Impact Statement- Support for a nation-wide Container Deposit Scheme

I am writing to you as an undergraduate Environmental Management student of Macquarie University and a concerned citizen of Willoughby City Municipality on the subject of packaging waste in Australia. I would like to express my support for a nation-wide Container Deposit Scheme to tackle this increasingly dire issue.

Currently, local governments and councils are heavily relied on to collect, treat and dispose of all waste, including post-consumer items. This is done through a variety of street side collections- including recycling and bulk items, provision of waste management outlets and infrastructure, litter and illegal dumping clean-ups. As our population and consumer culture grows rapidly, it's becoming increasingly obvious that the work and designated areas set aside by these governments and councils will not be able to handle our ever expanding waste, they do not have the man power or space to sustain it. Waste management and minimisation needs to be a collective responsibility and the issue needs to be addressed now.

Producers in particular should be forced to consider the full life cycle of their products and post-consumer packaging. Producers should be called upon to constantly develop new and innovative ways to minimise the packaging and waste of their products, and options should be available for recycling when a product meets its end life rather than it ending up in landfill.

Of the possibilities presented in the Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulation Impact Statement, I believe that a nationwide mandatory Container Deposit Scheme would be the most appropriate and successful option.

As declared at the Willoughby City Council meeting on 27th February 2012 (*22.3 Notice of Motion- Container Deposit Legislation, author N. Tobin*), a legislated Container Deposit Scheme has the potential to:

- Reduce the volume of litter in our parks, beaches and roadsides by 12-15%;
- Significantly reduce the number of turtles, lizards, seals and birds killed by litter across Australia;
- Achieve a 6% diversion of all Municipal Solid Waste ("MSW") waste away from landfill;
- Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by over 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂e per year (equivalent to 197,000 homes switching to 100% renewable energy);
- Save enough water to permanently supply over 24,000 Australian homes;
- Deliver the same level of Australian air quality improvements as taking 140,000 cars off the road;
- Provide 250,000+ Australian homes with access to recycling services for the first time;
- Save rate payers over \$59.8 million per annum; and
- Increase Australia's recycling by over 630,000 tonnes p.a.

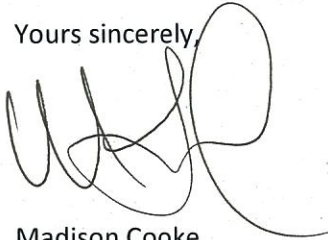
To see the positive effects a Container Deposit Scheme can have for a community, you needn't look further than South Australia. A successful Container Deposit Scheme has been running in South Australia since 1975, with the state reporting the highest rate of beverage container recycling in Australia. The recycling rate of beverage containers in South Australia sits at 70 – 80 per cent, compared to just 40 per cent currently in New South Wales. For 37 years, the scheme has created a source of income for local councils, community groups and non for profit organisations. Container Deposit Schemes also exist in Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany and a number of states and provinces in Canada and the US, with all schemes reporting high rates of recycling ranging from 80 to 95 per cent (Faehrmann, 2012).

A Container Deposit Scheme, using the methodology set out in option 4A has the potential to minimise waste, improve recovery of useable resources and increase the awareness and involvement of citizens in the waste management processes in their community. It will also create hundreds of jobs across Australia and relieve some pressure from local councils. The research completed by Boomerang Alliance in option 4A shows that the implementation of a nationwide scheme similar to the one they have proposed would likely lead to an additional 440,000 tonnes of recycled matter being recycled each year and the creation of thousands of jobs. The Boomerang Alliance believes after the first three years of operation realistically they would be expecting to see a recycling rate of 82 per cent and a reduction in the volume of discarded rubbish of 19 per cent (Environmental Protection and Heritage Council, 2011).

As Sydney continues to sprawl and the population continues to grow, pollution on what little green areas we have is high and space to accommodate our waste is becoming scarce. Inner city councils will not be able to sustain increasing waste forever, they will not have the time, money, man power and space. I strongly support and encourage the Standing Council on Environment and Water to implement a nation-wide Container Deposit Scheme to ensure waste minimisation and a healthy future for my community.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on a proposed solution or management strategy for minimising packaging waste in Australia. If you have any questions, or would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0409 044 543 or madison.cooke@student.mq.edu.au .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madison Cooke', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Madison Cooke

REFERENCE LIST

Tobin, N 2012, *22.3 Notice of Motion- Container Deposit Legislation*, Willoughby City Council Ordinary Meeting held 27 February 2012, downloaded 15 March 2012

<www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au>

Faehrmann, C 2012, *Container Deposit Scheme*, transcript of speech, viewed 15 March 2012

<<http://catefaehrmann.org/2012/02/speech-container-deposit-scheme>>