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File no. 12/36756
Contact: Ian Goodes
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Standing Council on Environment and Water Secretariat
GPO Box 787,
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Madam/Sir

Re: Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on Packaging

The City of Whitehorse in Victoria wishes to make the following submission to the Standing Council on Environment and Water Secretariat regarding the Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) on national measures to increase packaging recovery and decrease packaging litter.

At its Council meeting on 18 May 2009, Whitehorse City Council considered a proposal by Ms Colleen Hartland MLC, Victorian Greens spokesperson for Local Government and Waste Management, to introduce a Bill to Victorian State Parliament for a 10 cents returnable deposit on all drink bottles, cans and cartons in Victoria. Whitehorse Council resolved to support in-principle a drink container deposit scheme that would not financially disadvantage Council.

In keeping with this in-principle support for an effective and affordable container deposit scheme, Whitehorse Council would support the introduction of national measures to increase packaging recovery and decrease packaging litter.

Council recently tendered its kerbside waste and recycling collection services for a 7-year period from July 2012 until 2019. Under these new contract arrangements, Council will be paid a premium amount for every tonne of recyclables collected from the fortnightly kerbside recycling service, a benefit that is expected to yield an income to the local community in excess of \$1.7M per annum.

Whitehorse Council expects that any national measures to increase packaging recovery and decrease packaging litter will build upon the successful municipal recycling collections and to be implemented in a way that is financially beneficial for the community and local government.

Any container deposit scheme to be implemented as a nationally consistent initiative therefore needs the support of the packaging industry to ensure that kerbside collections retain sufficient high value packaging products to continue the premium payments to Council that many Victorian Councils are currently receiving from their recycling contractors.

Yours sincerely



IAN GOODES
MANAGER ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF WHITEHORSE