**Subject:** Fwd: National Container Deposit Scheme comment

I'm writing on behalf of the Environment Committee at Mosman High School who strongly support  the introduction of a national container deposit scheme. As teachers we are very aware of all the rubbish which is discarded within school grounds by students, because it is perceived to have no value. Students would be motivated to do the right thing with a scheme such as this in place because it provides an incentive.  
The introduction of a CDS will not only ultimately save the community money by reducing the massive amounts of plastic garbage going into landfill and waterways, but research has shown that it will only cost half a cent per container. This is very cost effective when considering the long term benefits to the planet, particularly as the insidious effects of plastic pollution are becoming increasingly apparent.   
The documentary film "Bag It" draws attention to the impact of plastic particles on male fertility, which is being seriously reduced in a number of species. The other alarming piece of scientific evidence which is likely to be ridiculously influential once it becomes more widely known, is the reduction in penis size that is being attributed to the build up of plastic material in the environment. Chemicals used in the production of plastic include bisphenol A and phthalates, which have recently been banned in a number of countries in the use of baby toys. That's because they have been identified as endocrine disrupters. In other words they are implicated in the dramatic increase in cases of gender neutrality, ie feminised boys and masculinised girls. Single use plastic bags are not being recycled adequately and are entering the food chain in a number of ways.  
What does it mean for the human race? Are we to ignore this powerful message from mother nature?  
South Australian legislation has successfully managed to reduce their garbage problem by considerable amounts, so we urge this inquiry to act promptly to implement a scheme that has proven itself of great value elsewhere and to ensure that dubious projects, such as providing more bins and increased advertising, are not going to be used as a way to merely shove the problem aside.  
Think of your grandsons!  
Teachers are in the business of educating for a better society and we know that actually a reduction in useage is preferable to recycling. Recycling to where? However an effective container deposit scheme will help to bring about the social changes required to increase awareness of this serious problem. Now is the time to take action to save our oceans, reduce carbon emissions and restrict the toxic effects that discarded plastic waste is having on our health.  
  
Yours sincerely  
Prudence Wawn