



Office of the Mayor

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27 March 2012

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Progressing a National Container Deposit Scheme

Thank you for the opportunity to write on behalf of Cowra Council in support of a national Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) as outlined in the Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (RIS).

The problem of how to increase the poor rate of recycling for glass, plastic, steel, paper/cardboard and aluminium is one that impacts on all levels of Australian society. In particular the costs associated with the provision of landfill sites and the removal of litter have a direct influence on council operational budgets and at the same time require the commitment of physical resources that could be allocated to other projects.

The RIS identifies additional costs associated with the implementation of a CDS. While these costs are not insubstantial they have been associated primarily as infrastructure costs that will be borne by industry in the recycling of its products. There are also costs associated with community participation in the project but evidence suggests that support for a national container deposit scheme would overcome cost driven resistance. Implementation of a national CDS will bring all Australian states and territories into line with a system already in operation in South Australia and Northern Territory.

Cowra Council has a strong commitment to recycling and the minimisation of waste disposed to landfill. Council operates a state-of-the art Material Recycling Facility and runs a fortnightly recycling collection service. The Cowra Shire Community Strategic Plan recognises the importance of caring for the natural environment with *Make Cowra a centre of environmental excellence* an important objective of the strategic plan.

The Standing Council on Environment and Water is to be congratulated on its commitment to addressing community concerns about packaging waste and litter reduction.

Cowra Council supports implementation of a CDS and looks forward to further development of this initiative.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'WJ West', written in dark ink.

WJ West
Mayor

Ref: 170.12.0001
12/03379



28 March 2012

The Secretariat
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Dear Sir or Madam:

National Container Deposit Scheme

As Manager of Environment Sustainability at Moira Shire Council, I support the introduction of a National Container Deposit Scheme.

Moirashire Council Plan 2009-2013 includes the strategy of "continue to implement environmentally sound waste management recovery practices".

This was supported by Council resolving, at the Ordinary meeting held on 12 September 2011, to "support the Private Member's Bill for a 10 cent refundable deposit on drink bottles, cans and cartons in Victoria, by writing to the Premier Ted Baillieu requesting he support the Private Member's Bill".

Yours sincerely

Sally Rice
Manager Environment Sustainability

sr:am



CITY OF MELBOURNE

30 March 2012

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CONFIDENTIAL SUBMISSION ON PACKAGING IMPACTS CONSULTATION RIS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement.

Of the options presented in the paper, the City of Melbourne's preferred option is Option 2c - Extended Packaging Stewardship. This is because, in our view, it is the most comprehensive and establishes the highest recycling targets within its parameters. Further, it involves substantial industry action to deal with the problem of low recycling rates coupled with regulative control.

We note that the packaging options report states that the scheme would focus on areas "where there are identified problem areas such as lagging recycling rates". The City of Melbourne has a relatively low recycling rate due to the difficulty in recycling within high rise apartment buildings and small-to-medium enterprises. In our view, Option 2c should include initiatives that address these specific problem areas. We also note that it is likely that this sub-option would involve "providing a significant amount of additional support for local government kerbside collection". This is also supported.

As the cost benefit analysis notes, community 'willingness to pay' studies all confirm that the community places substantial value on improved recycling rates. The options assessment should place greater emphasis on community attitudes regarding recycling.

Local government will play a key role in all of the options. More information is required on the likely financial impact on local government of these measures. This impact should be clearly articulated within the Decision RIS .

If you require any further information, please telephone Geoff Robinson, Manager Engineering Services on 9658 8533.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Lawler

Director City Planning and Infrastructure

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