

Dear Standing Council on Environment and Water Secretariat

**RE: Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulation Impact Statement**

I wish to make comment on the *Packaging Impacts Consultation Regulation Impact Statement*

I believe that a 10-cent recycling refund for drink containers is the only effective way to tackle Australia's growing problem with packaging waste and litter.

The beverage industry's alternative – placing recycling bins in public places – will not work and cannot take the place of a proven recycling refund solution that is already working in many countries.

Placing recycling bins in public places will do nothing to reduce litter. These bins become contaminated and vandalised and are a huge burden on the finances of local government. On the other hand, a recycling refund scheme will save money for local councils, reduce litter and pay people to do the right thing when they recycle.

For years, under the *National Packaging Covenant*, recycling targets have not been met. We cannot let ineffective solutions and flawed industry schemes distract us any longer.

The *Regulation Impact Statement (RIS)* makes it clear the main packaging problem is beverage containers with overall recycling well below 50%, and away-from-home recovery at about 22%. Beverage containers need to be the priority for action.

A container deposit scheme will cost less than half a cent per container and will generate new sustainable recycling industries, jobs and investments. A recycling refund scheme also has the potential to support a network of recycling drop-off centres that could be used to collect electronic goods and other valuable waste material for recycling.

The *RIS* says a container deposit scheme is expensive because it requires investment in new infrastructure – but this is investment by the private sector in recycling systems, which should be encouraged instead of treated as a cost.

It's important for the community to participate in recycling, but they have to know it will benefit the environment. Only a container deposit scheme delivers clean material for recycling so we can save maximum energy and resources and reduce pollution globally and in our communities.