

Submission to the Environment Committee

13 July 2009

Re. Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit Scheme)

I strongly urge the committee to recommend a National Beverage Container Deposit scheme, whatever the cost.

The amount of plastic and glass bottles that are found littering our beautiful countryside is an absolute disgrace. Unfortunately many of our citizens are not concerned about the environment they live in, and they discard their rubbish including bottles wherever they happen to be.

A container deposit scheme would see some of these people make the choice to save their bottles and return them for their money back. However, even though many people will not do this, at least it will encourage children and other people to collect the bottles from the street / bins in order to earn some cash. Thus more bottles will end up being recycled rather than ending up in landfill.

Where I live in Nowra (and I am sure this is the same in most places), not only is the rubbish a problem, but the amount of broken glass (predominantly beer bottles) found on our roads, footpaths, beaches and cycle paths is not only dangerous but also causes numerous punctures on bicycle trips. I believe the container deposit amount on glass bottles (especially beer bottles) should be a significant amount (eg. \$1) to make people think twice about smashing these bottles.

A container deposit scheme will also enable community groups to use it for fundraising purposes.

SA has a successful scheme up and running, why can't the rest of the country follow suit and make it a national scheme?

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