Boroondara Bicycle Users Group
Submission to:

Senate Committee of Inquiry into the Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009

11th July 2009

Introduction
Boroondara Bicycle Users Group exists to promote cycling and to advocate for improvements to cycling infrastructure in Boroondara and surrounding areas. BBUG thanks the Senate Committee for providing us with the opportunity to send this submission. BBUG will make this submission available on its website.

Referenced documents:
Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009

Executive Summary
BBUG supports legislation for a 10c container deposit scheme as we believe that this will lead to increased recycling of drink containers, and hence a reduction in carbon emissions, and to reduced littering of the environment. Broken glass in particular is a serious problem for various reasons.

BBUG recommended actions
I am writing on behalf of the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group to support the Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009 being sponsored by Greens Senator Scott Ludlam.

Such a scheme has been in operation in South Australia for some years now with notable success, especially since the deposit was raised to 10c. Of course it will not ensure that

100% of drink containers are recycled, but it is reasonable to expect that a rate of around 80% can be achieved. This is one major gain for the environment. Another is that a significant reduction to litter, around 25%, can be expected. As someone who has participated in several Clean Up Australia days, I am only too well aware of the large number of drink containers that litter our road verges and riverside bushlands. Collecting drink containers will provide a useful source of income for many councils and community groups as it did during my own childhood.

As a cycling advocacy group the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group has another compelling reason to support this legislation. Broken glass on our roads, especially near the kerb where cyclists generally ride, and on shared paths, represents a major problem for cyclists, and even a disincentive to ride. On my regular recreational rides numerous members of my group have experienced punctures due to broken glass. This year alone two cyclists I know have suffered cuts to their tyres while riding on shared paths that were so serious that they have had to buy replacements. Commuting cyclists report similar problems. Anything that reduces the amount of broken glass in our environment will be a huge plus for cyclists.

Broken glass is of course a hazard for all the community. Children, dogs and wildlife are all especially at risk from broken glass. It is also extremely unsightly

Yet another concern about the large number of drink bottles littering our bush is that they may conceivably focus the sun’s rays sufficiently to ignite fires on very hot days.

For all of these reasons we support this very worthy initiative.

Julia Blunden, on behalf of the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group