To the Senate Committee

I support The Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009 for the following reasons:
Australia's recycling rates (apart from South Australia) are currently very low. A container deposit scheme is the only proven method of achieving a high recycling rate for drink containers disposed of outside the home.
A container deposit scheme is the only practical method for removing a large proportion of litter from the environment.
A container deposit scheme will reduce the cost to ratepayers of cleaning up city streets and parks. It will also reduce the cost to ratepayers of kerbside recycling because the operator will be able to collect the refund on drink containers which consumers choose to dispose of in this way.

Plastic and glass are the two greatest components of litter which is gathered by the Friends groups I volunteer with in Victoria (Friends of Merri Creek and Friends of Woodlands Historic Park.) Having a monetary incentive for return will avoid much of this litter.

One point should be made explicit in the legislation - that collection depots (other than reverse vending machines) must accept container which are unlabelled, and must accept containers which were sold prior to the introduction of the legislation. This is important to provide an incentive to collect the millions of containers which are already scattered along our roadsides. Obviously this will mean that for an initial period refunds paid may exceed levies received, and this deficit will need to be funded by government.

Nicole Lowe