Submission to:

The Senate Environment Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee, for the inquiry into the

Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009.

From:
Marion Cook

To the Senate Environment Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee.

I wish express my support for the passing of The Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009.

This legislation is required for the collection and recycling of the billions of containers (especially drink containers) which presently are going to landfill, or which are never collected and remain as litter in waterways and bushland.

I have seen the number of drink bottles and cans that litter our metropolitan and country creeks, bushland and roadsides. When you get out of the car and walk alongside country roads, especially highways, it is just astounding how many containers are there. Drink containers don't break down like paper litter. Thank goodness for the many individuals and community organisations who get out there to try to reduce the problem.

However, we will never keep up with the litterers. Many Adopt a Highway groups have disbanded. The interest in Keep Australia Beautiful competitions seems to have waned. Volunteers eventually get sick of the problem. For many years people have called for this legislation but the government has not been willing to help.

When this legislation passes it will be one of the most popular and most called for pieces of legislation ever in this country. Support for this scheme is very strong in the community, as shown by several polls in different States.

As the community becomes more aware of climate change and carbon pollution, there is a growing awareness that these containers should be being recycled. However, drink containers are usually purchased for consuming away from home and therefore so often they become litter and then cannot be recycled.

South Australia has proven that this legislation will dramatically decrease the amount of litter, that it will increase the recycling (and collection) of drink containers without harming the kerbside collection system. They have proven that it does not cost too much.

Sustainability Victoria had on their web site recently the following information:
Making aluminium cans from recycled aluminium uses only 5% of the energy that is needed to make cans from the raw materials.
By recycling one aluminium can you save enough energy to run your TV for three hours.

Every aluminium can that is collected and recycled saves 767 grams of carbon dioxide which is the equivalent of 1 wheelie bin of greenhouse gas emissions.
Recycling PET saves 84% of the energy it takes to make PET from raw materials.
Recycling glass saves 74% of the energy it takes to make glass from raw materials.

The Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009 is needed to deal with:

- the current waste in landfill of so much valuable resource,
- the unnecessary pollution when billions more containers are made every year without recycled content,
- the continual problem of litter and pollution of waterways,
- the need for green jobs,
- the desire by the overwhelming majority of the community for this legislation.

Marion Cook.