Submission

Inquiry into the Environmental Protection (Beverage container deposit and recovery) Bill 2009

From Ms R Baillie

I support the Bill because discarded containers are an unnecessary waste of materials, embedded water and energy as well as visual pollution.

I also support the Bill because I am one of the many people in my bushwalking club who, over many years, have voluntarily picked up other people's discarded beverage containers and other litter from tracks, parks, reserves and campgrounds all over our State.
Every week we collect a bag of cans and bottles, of which many are putrid.

The “Throw Away” culture that we have become addicted to is a significant factor in Climate Change because of our over consumption of raw materials, energy and water, and thus, rising Co2 emissions. Discarded beverage containers are part of this “throw away” culture therefore we have a responsibility to develop better ways to deal with beverage containers. An example can be taken from South Australia which already has a successful deposit and return scheme.

A beverage deposit and recovery scheme must embrace all States and particularly the Northern Territory (where we counted 35 discarded beer cans to the kilometre for 50 kilometres).

Industries have been irresponsible by avoiding the problems caused by their products. Now, Industry must be made accountable for the life-cycle of their products. The introduction of this Bill would be a beginning.

To help reduce the use of more raw materials, water and energy, beverage containers must be re-used and recycled, so a deposit and recovery scheme is essential.