

SUBMISSION

INQUIRY INTO ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION (BEVERAGE CONTAINER DEPOSIT & RECOVERY SCHEME) BILL 2009

Submitted by Darren Wallace

I support The Environment Protection (Beverage Container Deposit and Recovery Scheme) Bill 2009 and present the following points:

This Bill successfully incorporates the old and the new. Firstly, it includes things that have been good about the South Australian system since that system was introduced in the 1970's. Secondly, it combines that with contemporary features that will enable this legislation to operate successfully in the modern world. It also incorporates features from successful systems that operate in parts of Europe and North America.

Beverage litter is a significant problem in all states and territories, except South Australia. A nationwide problem requires a uniform, national response.

Public support for refund systems is very high. This has been shown in a number of opinion polls⁽¹⁾. Community support is a vital prerequisite for an effective and successful litter policy.

In South Australia this is because people see the difference their system makes to litter. Also, they appreciate the financial benefits that individuals and community groups derive from their refund system.

In other states and territories it is because people remember the refund system on glass bottles when they were children. They see refund systems as a practical, common sense solution to a highly visible problem.

In Victoria, in 2008, 220 community groups registered their support for a state container deposit system. These groups were from all over Victoria and from all backgrounds.

FOOTNOTE:

(1) A Newspan survey commissioned by AFROCAB {Australians For Refunds on Cans and Bottles} conducted amongst 300 Victorians, in October 2006, found that 94% were in favour of the State Government introducing a container deposit system in Victoria. 3% were against a deposit system and a further 3% did not have an opinion.