



Sue Ellery MLC
Member for South Metropolitan Region



Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Legislative Council
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Brian

Petition No 116 – Support for a Container Deposit Scheme – Submission to Committee

Thank you for inviting me to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs in relations to this petition, versions of which have been tabled by several Members in both Houses of the WA Parliament.

The signatories are, I believe, expressing the growing concern in the community about the continuing failure in WA to increase significantly the amount of waste diverted from landfill, particularly in light of the recent ABS report showing that WA has the lowest recycling rate of any Australian state.

A container deposit scheme has been running successfully in South Australia since 1977. When it was first introduced there was a refund of 5 cents on every can and bottle. This was increased to 10 cents in 2008. South Australia now has a return rate of approximately 78 per cent and a recycling rate of nearly 67 per cent.

However South Australia isn't alone in showing strong leadership in this area. The Northern Territory Government recently passed legislation that will see the introduction of a "Cash for Containers" scheme in late 2011 and a recent poll in Tasmania found that 75 per cent of respondents strongly supported the introduction of a similar type of scheme.

In 2006 the previous Labor Government established a Stakeholder Advisory Group on Best Practice Container Deposit Systems for Western Australia and produced a report for the Minister for the Environment.

The community is keen to encourage the Liberal/National Government to continue with the work done under the previous government.

I believe that the introduction of a container deposit scheme in Western Australia is one of the most significant steps this State could take towards increasing the rate of recycling.

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I also believe that it will dramatically reduce the number of drink containers ending up in creeks, rivers, lakes, public parks and recreational areas and provide an additional opportunity for young people, community groups and sporting clubs to raise funds.

Thank you for your consideration of this serious issue. I would be pleased to provide further information to the Committee if required.

Yours sincerely



SUE ELLERY MLC
MEMBER FOR SOUTH METROPOLITAN REGION

8 July 2011

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