

National container deposit system edges closer

Environment ministers have agreed to conduct a study into the regulatory impacts of a national container deposit system (CDS).



Credit: Keep South Australia Beautiful

Total Environment Centre Executive Director, Mr Jeff Angel, welcomes the move. He points out that along with many other countries, South Australia already has a container refund scheme that attaches a value of 10 cents to a drink container. The scheme enjoys massive public support and an 80 per cent recycling rate. The Northern Territory is in the process of setting up a similar scheme.

Drink containers make up almost 40 per cent of the rubbish that volunteers find dumped in the natural environment on Clean Up Australia Day each year, according to Clean Up Australia Chairman, Mr Ian Kiernan AO. He says the agreement shows that political leaders are 'listening to the concerns of the Australian community in taking action on waste management reform.'

Mr Angel agrees: 'A CDS in Australia will produce a major reduction in litter; significant financial benefits to charities; up to 2000 new jobs; an 80 per cent recycling rate of containers; and hundreds of convenient drop off centres not only for containers, but also for other problem wastes such as batteries and electronic items.'

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