

12.1 Notice of Motion No 3/2012 Container Deposit Legislation

Submitted by: Councillor Christina Kirsch

Motion

That Warringah Council,

1. Acknowledges the efforts taken by many residents, community organisations, schools and local businesses to help at 'Clean Up Australia Day'
2. Acknowledge that empty containers, for example, plastic and glass drinking bottles, cans etc., are a major litter problem in our parks, bushland, waterways, lagoons, and on our beaches
3. Acknowledge the significant environmental and economic benefits to ratepayers of adopting a Container Deposit Scheme in NSW
4. Write to the NSW Premier, and other NSW Ministers urging them to implement such a scheme in NSW.
5. Introduce the concept of a Container Deposit Scheme to our community by offering a rebate of 10 cents per container (bottle, can) on 'Clean Up Australia Day' at a specified location in a highly visited area.

Financial Impact: Approximately \$500 for refund; volunteers to man the booth

Background from Councillor Christina Kirsch

NSW has a recycling rate of around the 40% mark for beverage containers:

South Australia has maintained a Container Deposit Scheme for the last 37 years. Enacted in 1975 under the Beverage Container Act 1975 and later incorporated into the Environment Protection Act 1993 (SA), CDL has been instrumental in the South Australia Government achieving a recycling rate of 70-80% in relation to beverage containers and providing a new income stream for local government, community organizations, and the States' most disadvantaged groups.

Container Deposit Legislation has the potential to:

- Reduce the volume of litter in our parks, beaches and roadsides by 12-15
- Achieve a 6% diversion of all Municipal Solid Waste ("**MSW**") waste away from landfill
- Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by over 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂e per year (equivalent to 197,000 homes switching to 100% renewable energy);
- Save enough water to permanently supply over 24,000 Australian homes
- Deliver the same level of Australian air quality improvements as taking 140,000 cars off the road;
- Save rate payers over \$59.8 million per annum; and
- Increase Australia's recycling by over 630,000 tonnes p.a.

An independent study of container deposits by Dr. Stuart White in 2001 states that;

“Local Government would realise financial benefits from the introduction of CDS through reduced costs of kerbside collection and through the value of unredeemed deposits in the material collected at kerbside”

On Friday, 9th July, 2010, the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW and the Boomerang Alliance wrote to the Federal Environment Minister Peter Garrett congratulating him on his commitment to drafting a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for a national Container Deposit Legislation (CDL). Nearly two years on and we have a new Environment Minister and yet no National CDL in place.

The Boomerang Alliance paper “Container Deposits: The common sense approach towards a zero waste society” April (2008) highlights the increases in recycling rates with the introduction of a National CDS. Similar rates are achieved in South Australia and with an appropriately designed recovery system, the South Australian recycling rate of 70-85% could be successfully duplicated in NSW.

The Northern Territory recently introduced CDL.

