



Hon Kate Jones MP
Member for Ashgrove



**Queensland
Government**

**Minister for Climate Change
and Sustainability**

Ref CTS 04596/10

08 APR 2010

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 10 March 2010 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 1336-09 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

The Petition requests that the House introduce Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) in Queensland as done in South Australia (12 February 2008) to ensure a 10 cent deposit/refund for every drink container (glass, bottle, can, Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) bottle, fruit drink and flavoured milk carton), in consultation with the drinks manufacturers.

As the responsible Minister, I understand the points raised with regard to the use of a container deposit scheme to improve recycling rates and the use of a similar scheme in South Australia. The Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) (<http://www.ephc.gov.au/>), of which I am the Queensland representative, is committed to investigating additional national measures, such as container deposit legislation, to manage the impacts of used packaging materials such as beverage containers.

EPHC recently commissioned a community attitude survey to determine the community's willingness to pay for increased packaging recycling and decreased packaging litter. Ministers are currently awaiting the results of this survey. Subject to further agreement by EPHC, the results of this survey will inform a detailed cost benefit analysis and development of a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS). The RIS will ensure that any decision regarding the introduction of a Container Deposit Scheme is made following a rigorous analysis of the costs and benefits of a range of options.

The Queensland Government supports a nationally consistent approach to managing beverage containers.

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The Queensland Government shares the concern of petitioners regarding the impacts of litter, and, in 2008, amended the legislation in relation to littering. The amendments included a category for dangerous littering, with an on-the-spot fine of \$400, to reflect the more serious nature of some forms of litter—such as broken glass. The amendments also allow an authorised officer to issue a fine for littering from a vehicle based on the registration details of that vehicle.

The Queensland Government also committed to investigating the introduction of public reporting of vehicle-related littering offences as the second stage in enhancing Queensland's litter prevention laws.

The Queensland Government is currently preparing new waste management and resource recovery strategy in consultation with local government. Issues including improved recycling and litter infrastructure, litter prevention and options to improve recycling overall will be considered as part of the development.

Should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact my, Principal Policy Advisor on 3239 0844.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Jones', is written over the typed name and title.

Kate Jones MP
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability