

## Container Deposit System Background Information

We need containers. We use them every day to hold our milk, fruit juice, soft drink, alcohol and water in. Australians purchase 12 billion containers every year. We know that containers are made from precious materials (glass, plastic and aluminium) and should be recycled.

Recycling containers also saves energy, water and landfill space – reducing our ecological footprint.



Recycled containers in SA,  
Photo courtesy of KESAB

In Australia currently we send 6 billion beverage containers to landfill every year. Sending these items to landfill just doesn't make sense!

**10 cent deposit gives a tangible reward for returning resources for recycling.**

About 50% of our containers are consumed away from home.

The most effective way we know of to recover these containers is to have a **10 cent deposit which is refunded** when it is returned for recycling.



This 'container deposit' system works around the world in California and 10 other North American states, Canada (all 10 provinces), Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland, Norway and Sweden.

***All the world's best recyclers have one common feature—container deposits.***

<Avante card distributed by the Australian Greens in 2009

In Australia, South Australia has been operating a successful system for over 30 years. Northern Territory has recently announced they will start a 'cash for containers' system at the end of 2011. Australia's federal and state environment ministers are currently investigating a national container deposit system.

**Research shows high levels (around 90%) of community support for a National Container Deposit System.**

Container Deposit Systems are opposed by powerful industry bodies around the world including in Australia. They do not like this form of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). A container deposit system legally forces beverage

companies to share some responsibility for the whole life of their product. Industry opposition tends to overstate the costs and understates the benefits of a container deposit system. Many studies have proven they are wrong.

The system proposed by the Total Environment Centre and Boomerang Alliance is evolved from South Australia's system.

The system is based on Recycling Hubs and Depots spread throughout the community – which may also become centres for recycling computers, TV's, batteries and mobile phones etc - and Reverse Vending Machines in local community centres where people frequent. Taking bottles to collect returns will fit into existing routines/regular trips e.g. to shopping centres.

Kerbside recycling systems will continue to operate in tandem with a Container Deposit System. Local governments support the Container Deposit System too.

### **Community and Environmental benefits of National Container Deposit System**

- Jobs created (more than 2000 nationally)
- Increased recycling (SA recycles 80% compared to 50% nationally)
- Reduction in litter\* of our roadsides, waterways and playgrounds
- Safer communities due to reduction in broken glass litter
- Cleaner recycling – less contamination – better returns
- Reduced costs for local governments in running kerbside recycling
- Community and sporting groups will raise money e.g. Scouts in SA raise approx \$2 million every year through their Recycling Centres.

\*Clean Up Australia reports that containers make up 40% of litter collected on Clean Up Australia Day, but in SA where container deposits have been operating successfully for 30 years, container litter is just 8.4% of litter.

**We only have one planet earth – let's not waste it.**

**For further information:**

[www.boomerangalliance.org.au](http://www.boomerangalliance.org.au)

[www.tec.org.au](http://www.tec.org.au)

[www.cleanup.org.au](http://www.cleanup.org.au)

Facebook Campaign page: Cash for Containers

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