



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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SA cracks down on interstate container rorting

The South Australian Environment Protection Authority says interstate consumers who attempt to collect a refund on beverage containers will face fines of up to \$30,000.

The EPA is reminding interstate consumers that the container deposit scheme (CDS) only applies to containers sold in South Australia.

SA EPA Chief Executive Helen Fulcher said the authority has become aware of incidents where interstate consumers have attempted to return large volumes of containers to SA for refund.

"Interstate consumers may be tempted to return containers as a result of the recent 10 cent deposit increase, however the South Australian container deposit legislation has been amended to protect the CDS in South Australia," Ms Fulcher said.

"It is now an offence to claim a refund on containers not sold in SA and consumers can expect to face fines of \$30,000 for breaching the legislation.

"The amended legislation also gives collection depots the ability to request a declaration from the person presenting containers for refund to ensure the containers were purchased in SA". The declaration requires the provision of the full name and address of the person presenting the containers, proof of identity and details of the vehicle registration.

"It is also now a requirement for a depot to request a declaration if 3000 or more containers are presented for return in a 48 hour period.

"Under the new laws, depots may refuse to accept containers if they believe the containers were not purchased in SA or if the person returning the containers refuses to complete the declaration," said Ms Fulcher.

Containers sold in SA carry a deposit, which is refunded when the container is returned to a collection depot. Containers sold outside of SA do not have the deposit added to the price.

While South Australia is the only state who operates container deposit legislation, the Environment Protection Heritage Council (EPHC) is currently investigating the merits of a national container deposit system.

In addition to being a powerful resource recovery tool, the container deposit scheme has proven to be successful in reducing SA's litter and waste sent to landfill. The scheme allows SA consumers to collect a 10 cent refund on specific beverage containers once returned to a collection depot.

For more information on SA's container deposit scheme, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

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