

Tuesday, 12 February 2008

DRINK CONTAINER DEPOSIT INCREASES TO 10 CENTS

The State Government is increasing the incentive for South Australians to keep recycling by doubling the current 5-cent deposit on drink containers to 10 cents, the first increase since the scheme began in 1977.

Premier Mike Rann says that while South Australia continues to lead the rest of Australia with recycling of its drink containers, there are still about 8000 tonnes - or more than 185 million of them - going into landfill each year.

“Our aim is to ensure that every container specified under South Australia’s Container Deposit Legislation is recycled,” Mr Rann said.

“In recent years, CDL return rates have declined from 84 percent down to 70 percent, so the time is right to increase the deposit to ten cents.

“If the refund had been regularly adjusted to keep pace with inflation, it would now be 32 cents in current dollar values.

“We know that CDL is extremely popular in the community and effective in reducing litter and encouraging recycling with 92 percent of respondents supporting the CDL scheme in a detailed consumer survey in SA in 2004,” Environment and Conservation Minister, Gail Gago said.

“More than half of the respondents - 57 percent - agreed they would be more likely to return beverage containers if the deposit amount was 10 cents or more.

“Last year, a nationwide Newspoll survey commissioned as part of the Clean Up Australia Day campaign found that 82 percent of respondents considered that a 10-cent deposit would encourage more people to recycle bottles and cans,” Minister Gago said.

Premier Rann says increasing the deposit to 10 cents will help on many levels.

“It will ensure even more containers are recycled, as well as reducing litter and increasing the amount community groups can generate in income from the return of CDL containers. Importantly, it will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70,000 tonnes a year.”

Recycling industry figures indicate that each year South Australians return more than 420 million containers, made up of 140 million glass bottles, 168 million cans, 92 million PET bottles and 20 million fruit drink and flavoured milk cartons. More than \$20 million is collected each year by South Australians returning drink containers within the scheme.

The 10 cent deposit will be implemented later this year, in consultation with the beverage industry and container collectors, so that transition arrangements can be carefully planned.