

Cash for Containers

Cassy O'Connor MP | Greens' Leader



We need to clean up our natural environment and create jobs through a State based cash for containers scheme.

Arguably the most beautiful State in the nation, Tasmania has the worst recycling rates. Only 14% of all waste is recycled and the rest ends up in landfill.¹

This is damaging the natural environment and our reputation.

We are currently a global tourism hotspot, given our beautiful Wilderness World Heritage Areas and the clean, green brand which underpins our growing tourism industry. Tasmania's litter rates jar with the image we project to the world.

With China recently announcing it would no longer accept a large proportion of Australia's plastic waste, glass and aluminium, local waste solutions are urgently needed.

Both the Liberal and Labor parties continue to drag their heels. They voted against our move for State based Container Deposit Scheme in 2016.

This is sound environmental policy, now adopted by South Australia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales, and to be implemented in Queensland and Western Australia.

There is no excuse for Tasmania not to introduce a cash for container scheme.

THE GREENS WILL

- ▲ Legislate for a Container Deposit Scheme for Tasmania.
- ▲ Fund an implementation plan
- ▲ Provide infrastructure grants to restructure or create new recycling facilities.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

Container deposit schemes are a deposit refund scheme that provides financial incentive for the consumer to return their drink container to be recycled.

Containers can be returned and money recovered to the manufacturers via intermediary retailers or through reverse vending machines, which are best located in supermarkets, or the money can be recovered through the existing waste collection system.

Modelling work indicates that a container deposit scheme would inject at least \$10 million new investment capital into the Tasmanian economy, kerbside waste collection costs will also go down by \$28 million over 20 years. This would mean an average of \$1.4 million in savings every year to local councils.

Schools, charity groups, sporting clubs and scout troops can also be winners in the drink container recycling story. A container deposit scheme opens up a valuable fundraising avenue for entrepreneurial people and organisations at the same time as cleaning up our parks, streets and marine environment.

The Greens will legislate to introduce a 10 cent state-based Cash-for Containers scheme.

This scheme will be administered by the Environmental protection Authority (EPA) and the EPA Division of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

INITIATIVE COST

Initiative Investment (\$m)	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year
Implementation Plan	0.05	-	-	-
Cash for Containers Infrastructure Grants	-	.15	.15	-
Total	0.05	.15	.15	0.00

REFERENCES

- [1. Boomerang Alliance, Paper, What Container Deposits Will Do for the Tasmanian Economy, May 2011.](#)
- [2. Marsden Jacob Associates, Cost Benefit Study of a Tasmanian Container Deposit System – Final Report, 2013](#)