



Peel Preservation Group Inc.

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PPG is a non-profit organisation devoted to the conservation of the natural environment in the Peel Region of Western Australia

Peel Preservation Group Inc.

Container Deposit Scheme
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
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7 September 2018

RE: CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

I am writing this submission on behalf of the Peel Preservation Group (Inc), a voluntary organisation based in Mandurah, Western Australia. Since its inception in 1976 our group has been dedicated to the conservation and appropriate management of our local bushland, waterways and wetlands. Currently, one of our main issues of concern is related to litter and waste being discarded in our bushland, parks and waterways, especially ubiquitous plastic bottles and packaging.

The relevant government authorities and authors of the proposed Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to be introduced in Western Australia deserve to be congratulated for this long awaited initiative. Nevertheless, our group does have several points to raise about the scheme, which we are hoping you will take into consideration.

Firstly, the scheme is not comprehensive enough, as wine bottles and paper cup drink containers are not included. Too many times we have seen discarded wine bottles in our local bushland, parks and along the shores of the Peel Harvey Estuary, which is a popular tourist destination for metropolitan, interstate and overseas visitors. Any scheme that reduces plastic bottles in our local environment is to be applauded, but one wine bottle sticking out of the mud can ruin a tourist's photo of the beautiful wetlands every time. There is also the problem of broken glass on the shores of our estuary.

Secondly, our group all agree that the 10 cent deposit on drink containers is too low, and may lack significant motivation for many people to engage in substantial behaviour change. We think that the deposit should be at least 20 cents, with some members thinking that 50 cents may be more appropriate. We do understand the need for consistency across jurisdictions, but perhaps other states could increase the somewhat outdated 10 cent deposit. As a retired clinical psychologist myself, I do think we have to seriously consider the monetary amount that would maximize participant motivation and be cost-effective to all partners in the scheme at the same time. A brief study into the economics of motivation might be a good idea in this early stage of the CDS planning. For example, you may not bother to pick up a 5 cent piece on the footpath, be ambivalent about 10 cents, but you would certainly pick up a 50 cent piece. The CDS will rely on a large component of human motivation and co-operation to be successful, so the point we are making certainly warrants further investigation and consideration.

Thirdly, our group strongly advocates the use of precise measuring and counting of the number of items eligible for deposit redemption at collection points, in regard to commercial waste collectors being involved. Using a process of estimation for a large number of items might appear to be efficient, but is too open to abuse and inaccuracies, which will immediately have a negative impact on the motivation and participation of the community.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the proposed Container Deposit Scheme, and we trust that the several points we have raised will be taken into due consideration.

Yours sincerely

Melvyn J. Tuckey

Committee Member

Peel Preservation Group (Inc)

Cc Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for the Environment
David Templeman MLA, Member for Mandurah
Zak Kirkup MLA, Member for Dawesville