

To the Senate Inquiry on a National Deposit System for cans and bottles.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed scheme.

I will be brief. I am fervently in favour of such a scheme for a number of reasons.

Firstly, there is the unsightliness of the bottles and cans which litter our countryside and city streets. What ugliness we create when people can just hurl receptacles from cars into the bush, or leave lying round the city. It makes Australia look slummy, as if we have no pride in our surroundings - it's like someone being scruffy and dirty, instead of showing a pride in their appearance..

Secondly, there is the safety element. In the city, bottles are dangerous. People, often drunk, just leave their bottles neatly sitting upright on footpaths, streets and bikepaths where one accidental kick can shatter the glass which is then very difficult to clean up, and dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists - who may be children. In the country, glass becomes a bushfire hazard.

Thirdly, there is the wastage of materials which could be recycled and used afresh.

Fourthly, there is the moral element attached to our consumer society of buy-and-trash. We have no concern for tidying up/reusing/recycling what we buy. People should be encouraged to take responsibility for their purchases and what happens to things when they have finished with them. A deposit scheme would be a consciousness-raising process.

Finally, many excellent organizations, such as scouts and guides, who are always struggling to raise funds, would be able to collect these containers and raise funds for their group activities. These youngsters would be proud of the benefits to the rest of society as a result of their efforts.

Again, thank you, and I wish you well in your work on this issue.

Pamela Lloyd