

The Senate

Environment and Communications
References Committee

Operation of the South Australian and
Northern Territory container deposit schemes

November 2012

© Commonwealth of Australia 2012

ISBN 978-1-74229-722-4

This document was printed by the Senate Printing Unit, Parliament House, Canberra

Committee membership

Committee members

Senator Simon Birmingham (LP, SA) (Chair)
Senator Doug Cameron (ALP, NSW) (Deputy Chair)
Senator Catryna Bilyk (ALP, TAS)
Senator the Hon Ron Boswell (NATS, QLD)
Senator Anne Ruston (LP, SA)
Senator Larissa Waters (AG, QLD)

Substitute members

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson (AG, TAS) to replace Senator Larissa Waters (AG, QLD)

Participating members

Senator Nick Xenophon (IND, SA)

Committee secretariat

Ms Sophie Dunstone, Acting Secretary
Ms Toni Matulick, Inquiry Secretary
Mr Chris Lawley, Senior Research Officer
Mrs Dianne Warhurst, Administration Officer

Committee address

PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Tel: 02 6277 3526
Fax: 02 6277 5818
Email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Internet:

www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate_Committees?url=ec_ctte/index.htm

Table of Contents

Committee membership	iii
Abbreviations and acronyms	viii
Chapter 1 - Introduction	1
Conduct of the inquiry	1
Structure of the report	1
Chapter 2 - Background	3
Introduction	3
Previous inquiries	3
National Waste Policy	5
South Australia's container deposit scheme	7
Northern Territory container deposit scheme	11
Chapter 3 - Discussion of key issues	13
The pricing of beverages in container deposit schemes	13
Committee comment	20
Super collectors and pricing structures	21
Calculating rates of return	22
Unredeemed deposits	24
Transparency	27
Other related matters	30
Dissenting report from Senator Whish-Wilson and Senator Xenophon	31
Appendix 1 - Submissions, tabled documents and answers to questions taken on notice	37
Appendix 2 - Public hearings	39

Abbreviations and acronyms

ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
AFGC	Australian Food and Grocery Council
CDL	container deposit legislation
CDS	container deposit scheme
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
EPHC	Environment Protection Heritage Council
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HDPE	high density polyethylene
KESAB	Keep South Australia Beautiful
PET	Polyethylene terephthalate
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
RIS	Regulation Impact Statement
SCEW	Standing Council of Environment and Water

