An improved container deposit scheme is one step closer with suggested changes being circulated to stakeholders for comment this week.

The NT Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) will conduct a targeted industry consultation campaign over a two week period to consolidate industry concerns and suggestions. These concerns have been addressed through proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Act 2011.

The amendments will mean the required number of ‘splits’ for collectors is reduced from 24 to a maximum of nine, meaning containers can be sorted just by material e.g. glass, aluminium and plastic.

Minister for Lands, Planning and Environment, Peter Chandler, said the number of splits is the major deterrent for collectors wanting to enter the market.

“Significantly limiting the required splits reduces the handling time for collectors. Currently collectors are required to make 24 splits, which includes sorting into the different manufacturers,” Mr Chandler said.

“Additionally collectors would only require an agreement with one coordinator to operate.

“The EPA will be going out over the next two weeks to have discussions with collectors, coordinators and other industry stakeholders like the South Australian EPA who have had a successful scheme running for over 35 years.

“I want to see a vibrant scheme with as many depots operating as possible so that Territorians are encouraged to recycle their unwanted containers.

“I expect to introduce these amendments at the March parliamentary sittings so we can get a better container deposit scheme operating as soon as possible.”

Media Contact: Jarrad Schwark 0437 914 736 or 8928 6617