Len Kiely
MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE

17 April 2008

NATIONAL CONTAINER DEPOSIT LEGISLATION SCHEME
ONE STEP CLOSER

Environment Minister Len Kiely said today’s move by State, Territory and Federal counterparts to investigate the merits of a national container deposit system is a win for Territorians.

Mr Kiely is attending the 16th meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) in Melbourne where moves aimed at reducing the environmental impacts of waste were high on the agenda.

“The Territory Government has always said a national approach to Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) will be the most effective system, and I believe today’s outcome is a win for Territorians,” Mr Kiely said.

“A nationally co-ordinated analysis of container deposit schemes will now be undertaken, and we will ensure that any such scheme introduced in the NT is right for Territorians.”

Mr Kiely said the Northern Territory Government strongly supported a national approach to taking plastic bags out of the litter stream – but not in a way that adversely affects Territorians.

“A high-level government-industry working group will identify measures by which retailers can increase the voluntary uptake of ‘green’ reusable bags – while at the same time reducing the use of single-use plastic bags.

“I was also pleased to see uniform endorsement of a draft Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative partnership between the Australian, State and Territory Governments.

“The Northern Territory already has a similar program in place and this partnership will further boost our efforts to educate young Territorians on how they can make a positive contribution to the environment.

“I was also pleased to see my State, Territory and Federal counterparts strongly committed to advancing Indigenous employment through natural resource management.”

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