6 May 2010

Turning Cans into Coins and Greening the Territory

Minister for the Environment Karl Hampton today announced $625,000 in Budget 2010 to establish a Cash for Container deposit scheme in the Northern Territory.

“The Henderson Government is committed to protecting our environment by developing a culture of recycling and sustainable living,” said Mr Hampton.

“The scheme will start in late 2011 and see Territorians receive 10 cents for every can and bottle they cash in.

“Importantly this will cut the amount of rubbish going to landfill, reduce litter including in our waterways, and give schools and community groups an opportunity to raise money.

“By placing a value on disused bottles and cans the Container Deposit Scheme will create a market for waste in the Territory.”

“Budget 2010 delivers funding to develop this project, inform the community and assist in establishing collection depots in remote communities through a grants program.

The program will be based on the South Australian model which has been successfully running for 35 years.

It will initially mirror key features of the SA scheme including:

- A 10 cent deposit on eligible containers;
- It will be administered by the beverage industry; and
- Cover similar containers as the SA scheme.

“I have seen the SA scheme first-hand and while it has many desirable features there also some areas that we can improve on,” said Mar Hampton.

“While initially covering products and containers similar to the SA scheme, the Territory Government will review our scheme and broaden the type of containers and products included if warranted.

Mr Hampton acknowledged the efforts of his parliamentary colleagues past and present in developing the ground-breaking policy.

“This announcement has been the result of hard work by Government and my fellow members on the Container Deposit reference group – Member for Nelson Gerry Wood, Member for Fannie Bay Michael Gunner, Member for McDonnell Alison Anderson and earlier work by
Lorraine Braham and Lorna Woods – I look forward to their continued contribution as we move to implementation," he said.

“Our Government is committed to reducing landfill by 50 per cent under our Territory 2030 plan and the Container Deposit Scheme will take millions of bottles and cans out of our waterways, parks, streets and landfill.”

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