Reverse Vending Machine Delivers the Goods to Territorians

Environment Minister Karl Hampton today congratulated a Territory teenager who won a $200 Eco Pack after feeding empty containers into a reverse vending machine at last week’s annual Freds Pass Rural Show.

Vouchers distributed by the machine in return for the empty cans and bottles put Nakara resident Emma Jones into the draw to win the $200 pack that contains a solar AM/FM radio, pencils, water bottle, book, torch, WWF game, eco bag tag and lunch box.

“Emma was one of more than 100 visitors to the Show who fed the reverse vending machine displayed at the Government’s Greening the Territory stand,” Mr Hampton said.

“I congratulate Emma on her win and all the other Territorians who picked up mystery prizes along the way such as environmentally friendly bags, toys and crayons.

“Reverse vending machines are a mainstay in many countries implementing container deposit schemes and the one at the Freds Pass Show worked as an effective tool to promote the Territory Government’s new cash for containers scheme that will be implemented this year.

“You put your empty can or plastic bottle into the machine and out comes a voucher – it really is that quick and easy and this scheme will help deliver a cleaner, greener Territory.

“Reverse vending machines are set to be displayed in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs as part of the upcoming show circuit as well as at next month’s Tropical Garden Spectacular in Darwin with more prizes on offer.”

Budget 2011 invests $490,000 to develop, implement and administer a cash for containers scheme with a further $315,000 annual spend from 2012 to continue operating the scheme.

“Through this scheme the Territory Government is taking action to reduce landfill, clean up our streets and waterways as well as protecting Territory wildlife,” Mr Hampton said.

“We are the second jurisdiction in Australia to adopt a cash for containers program which will reduce landfill by encouraging Territorians to recycle while providing money to Territory kids, community organisations and small businesses.

“The passing of container deposit legislation earlier this year in Parliament was a massive landmark for the Territory and is one initiative that will help put us well on track to reach our Territory 2030 goal of reducing rubbish going to landfill by 50 per cent.”

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