MEDIA RELEASE

CDS ADDS TO THE COST OF LIVING

January 03rd, 2012

Assurances by the Henderson Government that the Container Deposit Scheme would not increase prices are looking increasingly dodgy.

Shadow Environment Minister, Peter Chandler, said comments by a Darwin supermarket owner on last night’s Channel Nine News show that some prices for products will increase beyond the 10 cent refund on offer.

“The Government has repeatedly said there would be no increase in costs to consumers, but that promise was blown out of the water last night,” Mr Chandler said.

“Labor has shown its ignorance of the pressures Territorians face by adopting one of the most expensive package recycling schemes around.

“The Territory is expensive enough without Government making it more expensive for households.”

Mr Chandler said Ministers should stop comparing the Territory’s Container Deposit Scheme with South Australia’s.

“This isn’t comparing apples with apples because some remote parts of South Australia are exempt from the scheme because after 30 years, authorities haven’t been able to make it financially viable.

“In addition, there are concerns held by container collectors with the roll-out of the scheme so far.

“I have obtained a copy of a letter sent by the CEO of the implementing Department to collectors stating that concerns raised at a recent stakeholder meeting would have to be resolved after the scheme’s implementation.

“The Government has put the cart before the horse.”

(See attached letter)

Further comment: Peter Chandler 0429 076 493