NT GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT COKE OVER CONTAINER DEPOSITS

December 13th, 2012

The Northern Territory Government will fight Coca-Cola Amatil in court over the company’s claim that the Container Deposit Scheme is legally invalid.

The proceedings, which may occur as early as next week, will ask the Federal Court of Australia to settle the continuing legal argument between NT Government and Australia’s multi-billion dollar beverage industry.

Chief Minister, Terry Mills, said the Government would fight the legal challenge in the interests of consumers, the recycling industry and the Territory as a whole.

“Today Coca-Cola has followed through with a threat it has made since the Container Deposit Scheme was first introduced in the Northern Territory – I have instructed our lawyers to prepare immediately to fight this challenge in Court,” Mr Mills said.

“My government supports the scheme and I know that Territory families now utilise it daily as a means of reward-based recycling.

“More than 35.5 million containers have been processed through the scheme since 3 January 2012.

“I am most concerned for the many Territory businesses with a financial interest in the scheme – they need certainty and they need it now.”

The government has today informed businesses who are part of the scheme of the legal challenge.

Coca-Cola is seeking to have the challenge heard in Sydney next week.

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