MINISTER FOR LANDS, PLANNING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

MINISTER KICKS KIWI GOAL FOR CONTAINER EXEMPTION BID

11th April, 2013

Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Peter Chandler, scored a goal in New Zealand this week.

Arriving in the capital Wellington yesterday for a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) committee meeting with his Australian counterparts, Mr Chandler made the most of an opportunity.

He was out to score one last signature of support from all Australian jurisdictions for the Territory’s bid to get a Commonwealth exemption to keep the popular container recycling scheme going.

“I tapped Tasmania on the shoulder and gave a gentle reminder that we were anxiously awaiting Tasmanian support for our Container Deposit Scheme.

“They were only too happy to help out and obliged immediately sending an email to Tasmanian Premier Lara Giddings’ office to fast-track the paperwork.

“It turned out the Tassie team thought their letter of support had already been sent so it was just a matter of letting the right people know that it needed a hurry up. That’s one beauty of conferences, being able to take the personal approach,” Mr Chandler said.

He was in Wellington for a meeting of COAG’s Standing Council on Environment and Water (SCEW). The Territory Government now has all jurisdictions backing its bid to get exemption from the Commonwealth Mutual Recognition Act which would ensure all companies would be required to comply with the scheme’s requirements.

“We are confident that we can do this for Territorians who have embraced the recycling refund scheme, and we need it to keep Northern Australia as environmentally clean as possible.”

Major drinks companies have pulled out of the scheme so the Territory Government is paying the refunds for eight weeks from March 27. The Territory’s bid is expected to be considered at the COAG meeting next week.

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