Legislation passed today has ended two years of embarrassment, legal battles and uncertainty as the Country Liberals Government proves substance will always win over spin.

The amendments will secure the future of the Container Deposit Scheme in the Territory and mean we have a system that is both legal and efficient.

Minister for Environment Peter Chandler said it has been a long road but he’s very happy with the new system.

“Even after I managed to garner support from the Commonwealth and all the States for the Territory to be exempt from the Mutual Recognition Act, we were still left with a very clunky and inefficient Container Deposit Scheme,” Mr Chandler said.

“Labor rushed legislation through parliament, didn’t listen to stakeholders and launched the scheme with a big cloud hanging over its legality – all to look good at the 2012 election.

“Collection depots were forced to have agreements with multiple coordinators while also having to painfully sort containers in 24 different categories. That made it very difficult for depots to operate, limiting options for Territorians who were keen to recycle.

“The new scheme will reduce the number of required splits from 24 to a maximum of nine, and only require depots to have an agreement with one coordinator.

“Increased efficiencies in the scheme will make it much easier for more depots to open, providing more opportunities for Territorians to recycle.

“The Country Liberals Government will continue to work to improve environmental legislation and regulation with a focus on making a real difference, not just perceived ones.”

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