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Historic Agreement to Coordinate Recycling in SA and NT

The South Australian and the Northern Territory Governments have signed a historic agreement to improve the recycling of used beverage containers across both jurisdictions.

The agreement is a commitment to work towards aligning their container deposit schemes with a view to allow people to get a refund on drink containers bought in either jurisdiction.

The agreement has been signed by South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Paul Caica and Northern Territory Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage Karl Hampton.

South Australia’s highly successful container deposit scheme – in which people receive a 10c refund for used drink containers - was first introduced in 1977 to reduce beverage container litter and increase recycling and recovery rates.

A scheme mirrored on South Australia’s will begin in the Northern Territory from January 3. The legislation passed by the NT parliament also introduced a ban on plastic bags.

Mr Caica said the container deposit scheme and the ban on plastic bags are among the most successful litter management and recycling schemes in Australia.

“These schemes have contributed to South Australia having the highest recovery rate and the lowest beverage litter rate in the country and I welcome the decision earlier this year by the Northern Territory to follow in our footsteps,” he said.

“South Australia has long advocated for a national container deposit scheme. This agreement demonstrates a willingness of the Northern Territory to build upon the success and recognise the many benefits of the South Australian scheme.

Mr Hampton said this latest agreement will ensure both states work together to ensuring the growth and success of this very important scheme.

“This model has worked in South Australia for decades and Territorians want it here - history shows that drink prices should be no different across Australia,” he said.

The agreement also commits to developing process to monitor and track container flows...
across the border to minimise potential fraud in both jurisdictions.

The agreement aims to reduce beverage container litter and increase resource recovery, reuse and recycling across both jurisdictions.

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Related files:

Hampton.061211.Agreement.pdf (88.07 kb)