Cash for Containers Budget Boost

Environment Minister Karl Hampton today announced a significant funding boost to the Territory’s cash for containers scheme.

“The Territory’s cash for containers scheme will mean a cleaner, greener Territory,” Mr Hampton said.

“Through this scheme the Territory Government is taking action to reduce landfill, clean up our streets and waterways as well as protecting Territory wildlife.

“We are the second jurisdiction in Australia to adopt a cash for containers program which will reduce landfill by encouraging Territorians to recycle while providing money to Territory kids, community organisations and small businesses.

“That’s why the Territory Government is investing $490,000 in Budget 2011 to develop, implement and administer a cash for containers scheme with a further $315,000 annual spend from 2012 to continue operating the scheme.”

Mr Hampton said his recent meeting with key beverage industry representatives in Sydney was a positive step towards rolling out the Territory’s first cash for containers scheme.

“The passing of container deposit legislation earlier this year in Parliament was a massive landmark for the Territory and is one initiative that will help put us well on track to reach our Territory 2030 goal of reducing rubbish going to landfill by 50 per cent,” Mr Hampton said.

“The beverage industry will play a key implementation role when the scheme comes into effect later this year and I want the rollout to be as smooth as possible.

“I look forward to receiving a report back from the beverage industry about the workings of a cash for containers scheme in the Territory later this month.”

Mr Hampton also reminded Territorians that plastic bags will be banned from 1 September 2011 with a phase out period starting today.

“Approximately 40 million single-use plastic bags are consumed in the Territory each year, creating landfill, litter and killing our wildlife,” Mr Hampton said.

“That’s why this Government is proud to have passed legislation earlier this year banning shops from selling or giving away lightweight, non-biodegradable, “checkout” style plastic bags.
“The Plastic Bag Ban also encourages Territorians to switch to reusable, environmentally friendly bags, including Green Bags and biodegradable or compostable bags.

“The ban will begin with a phase-out period from today before coming into effect on 1 September this year.”

Go to www.greeningnt.nt.gov.au for more information about the cash for containers scheme and plastic bag ban.

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