Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says it seems that Lion may have been dragged along by Coke to challenge the NT Cash for Container scheme.

Firstly Lion’s web page says

_We understand, however, that the Territory Government may appeal the decision and will seek permanent exemptions from its obligations under the Act in order to keep the CDS. With so many unknown factors at this stage, Lion plans to continue to implement the scheme until there is further clarity and will work to discuss and resolve appropriate next steps in the coming weeks._

Gerry says Lion’s position seems much more conciliatory than Coke who wants to close everything down on March 18th.

Secondly Lion went to the trouble of putting ‘10cent refund at NT collection depots’ on their milk and beer products (attached copy) whereas Coke refused to make the small change to their products.

Gerry said it seems obvious that if Lion Nathan had their heart in the Federal Court action they would not have bothered changing their labels.

Gerry says that the government should be negotiating with Lion so that CDS can continue until there is further clarity as they have stated.

Gerry says it would be good to know what Schweppes and Coke are doing are doing. The Government needs to tell the public about the present situation and how long the scheme will continue while we wait for the outcome of the COAG meeting in April.

He says the Government needs a clear statement so the public know whether it is worth saving their bottles and cans.