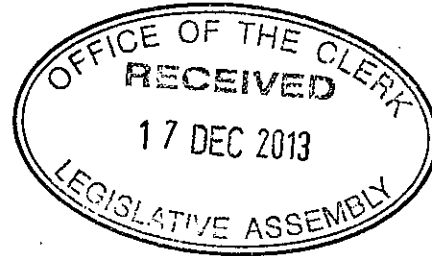




The Hon. Robyn Parker MP
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage

Ms Ronda Miller
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Ronda,

Dear Ms ~~Miller~~

I refer to the recent petition lodged by the Member for Sydney Alex Greenwich with the Legislative Assembly regarding a container deposit levy. It is encouraging to see members of the community who are interested and engaged in the discussion on recycling and litter.

A key goal for the NSW Government is to reduce waste and increase recycling rates, as outlined in *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one*. The plan reiterates our commitment to reach ambitious recycling targets, and to build on our steadily increasing recycling rates. In fact, the new draft *NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2013–21*, which is now out for public comment, proposes more ambitious targets that reach to 2021. The draft Strategy can be found at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/warr/WARRStrategy2013.htm and comments will be received until 16 December 2013.

The Government has also made a significant funding commitment to increase recycling, combat illegal dumping and reduce litter. The *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative was announced in February and commits \$465.7 million to 2017 for a new waste and recycling agenda. This includes \$250 million for new recycling infrastructure and \$20 million to revitalise anti-litter efforts in NSW.

In relation to beverage containers, around 70 per cent of beverage containers are consumed at home, with the remainder consumed at work or in public places. In 2011–12, households in NSW recycled 83 per cent of beverage containers consumed at home, through their kerbside recycling systems. However, the NSW Government recognises that we can do more to capture and recycle those containers that are used outside the home, where the recycling rate is much lower.

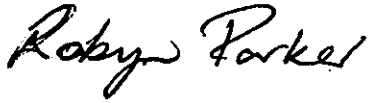
As you are aware, the COAG Ministerial Standing Council on Environment and Water has been examining the various options to increase packaging recycling and reduce litter. On 11 April 2013, the Standing Council considered a progress report on the development of the Packaging Impacts Decision Regulation Impact Statement. The Regulation Impact Statement is evaluating ten approaches to increase packaging recycling and reduce packaging litter, including three types of container deposit schemes.

At the Standing Council, I emphasised the need for the Decision Regulation Impact Statement and its modelling to be ready for consideration as soon as possible to enable us to consider a fact-based approach on this important issue. The Impact Statement has progressed and Ministers will meet in early 2014 to consider the Decision Regulatory Impact Statement.

The NSW Government remains open to all the options being considered provided they are demonstrated to be effective and generate a benefit to the community.

However, independent of the national processes, the Government is rolling out significant funding and other programs to deliver recycling and litter outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn Parker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robyn Parker MP 10/12/13
Minister for the Environment