



SUBMISSION GUIDE TO NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT DISCUSSION PAPER

The NSW government has issued a discussion paper on what type of container deposit scheme (CDS) it should introduce. This follows on from its election promise on 21 February 2015, that it would introduce a 'world's best' CDS by mid-2017 with reverse vending machines. Submissions will be accepted until 26 February 2016.

If you want to support the Boomerang Alliance's CDS proposal (which appears in the Discussion Paper) we urge you to make a **personal submission** highlighting the following key points:

- The Boomerang Alliance's CDS is a world-class system suitable for NSW with the best features drawn from high performing systems around the world. It will help the government meet its election promise for a 'world's best' CDS.
- Premier Mike Baird has adopted the reduction of the volume of litter by 40% by 2020 as a priority. The Boomerang CDS can almost achieve this on its own as the volume of drink containers in litter is over 40%. A key component to meet this goal is that we harmonise the types of containers covered with the successful South Australian CDS which includes bottles and cans up to 3L and has a 10cent refundable deposit. Also it is not sensible to have different types of containers covered in different states – it will lead to industry disruption and consumer confusion.
- The more containers covered by the scheme – the more funds available for charities who are involved in collections – and the greater the financial benefit to councils who can gain from the 10cents deposits on the containers left in kerbside, potentially leading to reduced waste charges on residents.
- We all consume drinks at home and away from home. The most convenient way to redeem the deposit (if you are not giving it to a charity or leaving in kerbside) is to have reverse vending machines where we regularly shop or visit, so it is convenient. They need to be the fastest, most modern RVMs and of sufficient capacity so there are no waiting times.
- Not only do we need to dramatically reduce littering, but we also need to improve bottle and can recycling. A 'world's best' CDS would maximise high value recycling so we don't waste resources.
- It is important that the body running the CDS has community confidence. It should be a non-profit group committed to maximising community access and environmental benefits – not run by industry who have been opposing the introduction of container deposits for years. Maximum transparency and an ability to independently monitor the beverage industry and if necessary recommend prosecutions for those who fail to comply with the CDS, is essential. An industry run scheme will have too many conflicts of interest.
- The government should consider the jobs and charity income created by a CDS as important factors in its decision.
- The industry alternative – 'Thirst for Good' – is a poor option. It's not a permanent solution as it won't change behaviour to stop littering like the financial incentive of a 10cent refundable deposit. Nor will it build up the recycling industry. We need a new system for a cleaner environment, not old programs.