



Position statement: Container Deposit Legislation

May 2013

Effective product stewardship is an important tool for securing New Zealand's 100% pure brand and reputation. We believe product stewardship is a way of managing the health, safety and environmental impacts of products, and in particular the impacts of disposal.

Responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of manufactured goods should be shared amongst all those involved in the product life cycle – from design, manufacture, consumption and disposal. The increase in new and complex packaging materials, as well as the movement away from reusable packaging towards disposable, and often single-use packaging, has exacerbated the amount of packaging we are using, along with the cost of dealing with the packaging waste.

We are strongly in favour of Product Stewardship or Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging. We have identified packaging as one of the waste streams we think needs to be a 'priority product' and have advocated to the Minister for the Environment on this point.

Different mechanisms do different things, and are effective for dealing with different materials. A comprehensive range of mechanisms will offer the most effective overall solution.

Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) is particularly effective for beverage containers, and for dealing with litter problems, in particular the issue of ocean plastic. It encourages more recycling, complements existing programmes and reduces energy and virgin material usage. In other countries it has the highest public support of any legislation being introduced, generally around 90%. Return rates for beverage containers can be as high as 95%.

Although CDL requires significant infrastructure to be established we believe there is existing infrastructure that could be easily incorporated into a Container Deposit System – such as many of the community recyclers who run transfer stations, reuse stores and recycling drop off stations that could become refund stations. The Community Recycling Network hopes to be involved in discussions about CDL at a national level.

The Community Recycling Network (CRN) is a national body that supports and represents community enterprises with a zero waste focus in Aotearoa.

For more information contact:

Dorte Wray
CRN Coordinator
87 Fairview Crescent, Waiheke Island
Auckland 1081
Ph 09 372 7289 / 021 975 352
admin@communityrecyclers.org.nz
www.communityrecyclers.org.nz