



**Harriett Swift**  
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**media release**

## **Clean up Australia Day highlights needs for Container Deposit Law**

Greens candidate for the Bega electorate is calling for the introduction of a container deposit scheme to boost recycling rates, reduce litter and landfill.

“Sunday’s Clean Up Australia Day would become a daily activity if NSW had a container deposit scheme” Ms Swift said.

“It could go a long way towards removing the need for large regional landfill facilities such as the controversial Wanatta Lane tip proposed for the Bega Valley Shire,” she said.

“Container deposit schemes allow for community groups and the disadvantaged to make money out of keeping our environment clean,” she said.

“Many positive benefits flow from such a scheme, including increased recycling, decreased litter, employment opportunities in recycling, reduced landfill, water saving & improved air quality.

“The Greens worked hard for a container deposit scheme in the last Parliament but could not get support from the major parties for a change to the law.”

“The Coalition did not support a Greens’ Bill in 2009. The timing of the Coalition’s announcement in support of a container deposit scheme during an election campaign is spurious. They’ve already issued the caveat of any scheme needing to be a national scheme, to give them an “out” after March 26.”

“The Greens are not beholden to donations from the powerful packaging industry – which after a decade of self-regulation in NSW has left our state with recycling rates less than 40%.”

According to research \* a Container Deposit Scheme could:

- Reduce the volume of litter in our parks, beaches and roadsides by 12-15%
- Increase Australia’s recycling by over 630,000 tonnes a year
- Achieve a 6% diversion of all Municipal Solid Waste (“MSW”) waste away from landfill
- Reduce Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions by over 1.3 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year (equivalent to 197,000 homes switching to 100% renewable energy)
- Save rate payers over \$59.8 million per annually

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- Significantly reduce the number of turtles, lizards, seals and birds killed by litter across Australia
- Create at least 1,000 new jobs, mostly in rural and regional Australia

The South Australian experience, following the introduction of a container deposit scheme in 1975 has been fantastically successful, raising recycling rates to 80%.

\*2008 Boomerang Alliance Report Contact: 0414908997

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