



FAMILY FIRST



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

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NEW DRINK CONTAINER RECYCLING LAWS INTRODUCED TODAY

Today, Family First will introduce its *Drink Container Recycling Bill 2008* as an important environmental measure to boost the recycling of drink containers across Australia.

The legislation implements a national container deposit scheme similar to the one operating in South Australia for the past 30 years. Only South Australia operates such a scheme where there is a 5 cent (soon to be 10 cents) container deposit that is redeemed when the container is returned for recycling.

“South Australia is leading the way with container recycling at 85% while the other states are at an appalling recycling rate of 35%,” Family First leader Senator Steve Fielding said. “A national container deposit scheme makes sense – it’s a big win for the environment and a big win for the community.

“It’s a win for the environment because we end up with 25% less litter on our streets and in our waterways and half a million less tonnes of waste every year as we will see container recycling lifted from 38% to 85%.

“It’s also a win for the community with a cleaner looking environment and local community groups and kids can earn some extra cash while keeping Australia beautiful. Last year in South Australia the Scouts earned \$7 million from container recycling.

“I encourage other States to put aside their own self-interest and immediately support Family First’s push for a national container recycling scheme for the sake of their environments and their communities.

“Most people can’t understand why there is not a national container recycling scheme already in place given that it has been successfully operating in South Australia for over 30 years,” Senator Fielding said.

A national container deposit scheme would:

- Lift drink container recycling from 38% to 85%;
- Recycle an extra half a million tonnes of waste every year;
- Reduce litter by 25%;
- Save the average family \$30 every year on kerbside recycling;
- Create more than 2000 new jobs;
- Allow community and sporting groups and kids to earn money

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