

Media debate: National Packaging Covenant and Container Deposit Legislation

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<p>“...the CDL debate has been made redundant by the introduction of the National Packaging Covenant, which is a cooperative agreement between federal, state and local governments and industry ... NPC industry signatories are required to produced annual action plans that spell out their waste reduction plans ... The NPC arrangements have been strengthened over the past year, and a number of measures are aimed at improving industry compliance.”</p> <p>Jock Campbell, Chairman, Southern Waste Strategy Authority Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 30/12/04, p.16</p>	<p>“He does feel strongly that it needs to go further. NSW is not to prepared to sign unless targets are included.”</p> <p>Spokesperson for NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus ‘Surprise package for green groups as accord binned’, Sydney Morning Herald, 3/12/04, p.6</p> <p>“... frankly our record in how much packaging waste is being sent to landfill is not good enough and needs to be improved.”</p> <p>Australian Minister for the Environment, Senator Ian Campbell ‘Ministers step up action to combat packaging waste’, Gatton Lockyer Brisbane Valley Star, 8/12/04, p.31</p>	<p>The National Packaging Covenant was “set up to fail ... the Covenant was set up to ‘mask’ the fact that the packaging industry did not want to be responsible for its own rubbish ... It’s cynical policy. It was developed to make sure that container deposit legislation was not introduced.”</p> <p>Genia McCaffery, NSW Local Government Association president ‘Recycling plan trashed’, Wentworth Courier, 19/1/05, p.16</p> <p>“The National Packaging Covenant is a recipe for inaction and the new version ... to be considered by the ministers is more of the same.”</p> <p>Jane Castle, Total Environment Centre ‘Surprise package for green groups as accord binned’, Sydney Morning Herald, 3/12/04, p.6</p> <p>“Last year, the independent Meinhardt Review of the National Packaging Covenant found that there was a lack of measurable outcomes from industry signatories, no sanctions for non-performance, a lack of State and Federal Government regulation of the packaging industry, and a lack of financial support by industry to cover cost of recycling.”</p> <p>‘Council Happenings’ with Mayor Steve Low AM, Dungog Chronicle, 19/1/05, p.4</p>

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<p>“Meanwhile, they [environment groups] might look to Europe where the type of draconian regulations they advocate have driven companies out of business ... the cost of the sort of government regulation which inhibits a company’s flexibility, options and ability to be competitive, which all unnecessary regulations do, is paid for in jobs. The Covenant is a much better way of achieving an excellent environment outcome.”</p> <p>‘Greens hunt out non-typical products to attack Covenant’, Christopher Speary, Packaging magazine, December 2004, p.4</p> <p>“And if industry hasn’t dramatically improved and gets its act together, then it deserves to be regulated.”</p> <p>Maree McCaskill, CEO, Beverage Industry Environment Council ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p>	<p>“To date, progress by businesses to reduce waste has been slow and ineffective. Government has put industry on notice to get serious about reducing packaging waste or face regulation.”</p> <p>NSW Environment Minister, Bob Debus ‘Packaging to be slashed’, South Coast Register, 17/12/04, p.4</p> <p>“A spokesman for Mr Debus said that while the minister supported the voluntary scheme, he was prepared to use the Government’s extended producer responsibility legislation to regulate if necessary.”</p> <p>‘Green groups given surprise package’, 3/12/04, Fairfax digital</p> <p>“The country’s environment ministers have agreed on tougher measures to reduce product packaging ... at a meeting of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council yesterday, the ministers set new targets for industry to achieve reductions of packaging waste by 2008.”</p> <p>‘Crackdown on packaging waste’, Sydney Morning Herald, 4/12/04, p.6</p>	<p>“You can only wonder what companies like Fuji Xerox and IBM – which have achieved serious progress on genuine EPR [Extended Producer Responsibility] schemes – make of the easy ride given to packaging industry players.”</p> <p>Jeff Angel, Director, Total Environment Centre ‘Pathetic package’, Waste Management and Environment, November 2004, p.26</p> <p>“The green groups say the main problems with the new National Packaging Covenant are its lack of a plan for the 50 per cent of beverage containers consumed outside the home, and its failure to set targets.”</p> <p>‘Green groups given surprise package’, 3/12/04, Fairfax digital</p>

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<p>“Beverage containers make up less than 5% of the litter stream.”</p> <p>‘Industry cans drink levy plan’, Hobart Mercury, 21/12/04, p.12</p>	<p>“When you look around Adelaide, our parks, gardens, our streets, the absence of litter, specifically of soft drink cans and bottles, is obvious.”</p> <p>SA Environment Minister, John Hill ‘Refund idea well worth recycling’, Newcastle Herald, 8/1/05, p.17</p>	<p>“Packaging related items represented 85 per cent of all litter collected on Clean Up Australia Day this year.”</p> <p>Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia</p> <p>‘A bad wrap for our packagers’, Herald Sun, 9/12/04, p.22</p> <p>“[CDL] could stop the disgusting trash on our roadsides which is occurring despite kerbside recycling regimes. And it could stop the blasting of the clean and green image we are so boldly and dishonestly announcing to the remainder of the planet.”</p> <p>Jo Carswell, Acting State Coordinator, Clean Up Australia Day 2005, Primrose Sands Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 23/12/04, p.24</p>
<p>“Beverage containers represent only about 10 per cent by weight of all waste. We need to look further than just beverage containers.”</p> <p>Jock Campbell, Chairman, Southern Waste Strategy Authority Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 30/12/04, p.16</p>	<p>“NSW Minister for the Environment Bob Debus said packaging waste, such as food and beverage containers, cardboard boxes and plastic wrapping is a major source of rubbish, with around one million tonnes generated each year in NSW.”</p> <p>‘Packaging to be slashed’, South Coast Register, 17/12/04, p.4</p>	<p>“There are millions of tonnes of plastics needlessly going to landfill ... People want to do the right thing but unless industry complies, landfill will continue to be choked with recyclables.”</p> <p>Mike Anderson, Margate Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 23/12/04, p.24</p>
<p>“I don’t get particularly concerned, because groups like Clean Up Australia and Planet Ark and the Australian Conservation Foundation have got a role to play. They are, I guess, the conscience pricklers of Australia. But they don’t have the solutions either.”</p> <p>Maree McCaskill, CEO, Beverage Industry Environment Council ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p>		<p>“Effective waste-reduction measures require high targets and the necessary practical mechanisms, such as banning packaging from landfill, packaging deposits, refillable containers and advanced disposal fees. Targets will be meaningless if there are no programs in place.”</p> <p>Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia ‘Bigger fight still to cut packaging’, Canberra Times, 11/12/04, p.11</p>

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<p data-bbox="201 344 737 407">“Simply put, kerbside recycling collects a broader range of materials than CDL very efficiently.”</p> <p data-bbox="201 436 708 491">Jock Campbell, Chairman, Southern Waste Strategy Authority Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 30/12/04, p.16</p>	<p data-bbox="821 344 1406 646">“Research conducted for the groups [of the Boomerang Alliance] including the Australian Conservation Foundation, Environment Victoria and the Total Environment Centre found that only 20 per cent of packaging is recovered for recycling. The report also says that glass recovery rates reported by industry are overstated and that glass recycling has decreased from 53 per cent in 1997 to 38 per cent in 2002.”</p> <p data-bbox="821 680 1406 730">‘Surprise package for green groups as accord binned’, Sydney Morning Herald, 3/12/04, p.6</p> <p data-bbox="821 751 1419 1024">“Packaging production has skyrocketed to more than 3.3 million tonnes every year. But despite the community’s high kerbside recycling participation rates (up to 95 per cent) the actual percentage of packaging materials recovered is just 20.1 per cent of those produced. This figure is embarrassingly low when some European nations are recovering more than 80 per cent of their packaging waste.”</p> <p data-bbox="821 1054 1295 1108">Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia ‘A bad wrap for our packagers’, Herald Sun, 9/12/04, p.22</p> <p data-bbox="821 1129 1403 1264">“Beverage container recovery rates in Australia are between 30 and 66 per cent With nearly one-third of this going to landfill because of contamination during kerbside collection.”</p> <p data-bbox="821 1293 1390 1369">Jeff Angel, Director, Total Environment Centre ‘Pathetic package’, Waste Management and Environment, November 2004, p.26</p>

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<p>“The Beverage Industry Environment Council has opposed the introduction of container deposit levies, saying it had not worked well in South Australia ... [By introducing CDL] you end up paying for two systems, neither of which works particularly well.”</p> <p>Henry Pepper, spokesman, Beverage Industry Environment Council ‘Industry cans drink levy plan’, Hobart Mercury, 21/12/04, p.12</p>	<p>“Is Henry Pepper saying that kerbside recycling is not working very well? If so, is this because most of the recyclables tossed together in kerbside bins are too contaminated and useless for recycling anyway?”</p> <p>Jo Carswell, Acting State Coordinator, Clean Up Australia Day 2005, Primrose Sands Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 23/12/04, p.24</p> <p>“Container deposit legislation works successfully in South Australia, where 88 per cent of glass bottles are recycled and 72 per cent of plastic is recycled. In NSW, only 39 per cent of glass bottles are recycled and 32 per cent of plastic is recycled.”</p> <p>‘Recycling plan trashed’, Wentworth Courier, 19/1/05 p.16</p> <p>“It’s [CDL] incredibly effective, and I quote the figure again: 88 to 90 per cent of those containers are recycled there [in SA]. We’re doing 33 [in NSW], you know. The figures speak for themselves.”</p> <p>Genia McCaffery, NSW Local Government Association president ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p> <p>“We should have a five cent deposit for each can and bottle handed in to recycling depots ... It would improve the environment amazingly. It will save the fish and other native wildlife if the environment is like the environment in Adelaide. In my opinion, Melbourne will be the best city in Australia if this happens.”</p> <p>Matt White, 13, Essendon Letter to the Editor, Herald Sun, 6/12/04, p.26</p>

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<p>“CDL would take the most valuable items out of kerbside recycling programs, according to Beverage Council spokesman Henry Pepper.”</p> <p>‘Industry cans drink levy plan’, Hobart Mercury, 21/12/04 p.12</p> <p>“Various studies have estimated that the imposition of CDL on top of existing kerbside systems would increase the overall financial costs of recycling by two to three times.”</p> <p>Jock Campbell, Chairman, Southern Waste Strategy Authority Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 30/12/04, p.16</p> <p>“A levy on drink bottles and cans would destroy kerbside recycling programs, according to the Beverage Industry.”</p> <p>‘Industry cans drink levy plan’, Hobart Mercury, 21/12/04, p.12</p>	<p>“The pressure on kerbside recycling services is enormous and costs have skyrocketed, reaching \$294 million a year.”</p> <p>Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia ‘A bad wrap for our packagers’, Herald Sun, 9/12/04, p.22</p> <p>“Greens environment spokesman Nick McKim wants container deposit levy legislation introduced in Tasmania, saying it would help to adequately fund waste management schemes.”</p> <p>‘Industry cans drink levy plan’, Hobart Mercury, 21/12/04, p.12</p> <p>“The beverage industry is only interested in profits and has done an excellent job in getting the rest of society to subsidise it. We must not allow producers to ignore the disposal costs of their products.”</p> <p>Barry Brannan, Sandy Bay Letter to the Editor, Hobart Mercury, 23/12/04, p.24</p> <p>“He said kerbside recycling companies would still be viable as these resources would be used to take the containers to a central deposit point.”</p> <p>Quoting Tasmanian Waste Management Association Branch President, Brad Mashman ‘Drink cans and bottles may be subject to levy’, Launceston Examiner, 23/12/04, p.10</p> <p>“[The Tasmanian branch of the Waste Management Association of Australia] said introducing levies on packaging would force the packaging and manufacturing industries to look for more sustainable solutions. And there was no conclusive evidence that a CDL would hurt kerbside collection and recyclables and increase local government costs.”</p> <p>‘Waste plan cops blast’, Hobart Mercury, 22/12/04, p.18</p>

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<p>“So by proposing solutions like public place recycling and putting up money for those programs, we think industry’s doing its fair share.”</p> <p>Alec Wagstaff, Coca-Cola Amatil ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p>	<p>“I applaud the public place recycling initiative. We’re involved in it. It’s a very good step forward. But it’s only one.”</p> <p>Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p> <p>“For too long the community has been cleaning up, picking up and paying for damage from packaging that clogs our waterways and litters our parks, beaches and roadsides.”</p> <p>Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia ‘Environment ministers move to end waste crisis’, Dalby Herald, 31/12/04, p.4</p> <p>“With present arrangements manufacturers are largely exempted and local communities pay for the recycling and disposal of packaging materials and containers. Sadly, this does not encourage appropriate innovation with packaging design and waste reduction.”</p> <p>‘Council Happenings’ with Mayor Steve Low AM, Dungog Chronicle, 19/1/05, p.4</p> <p>“Environment Victoria Zero Waste Campaign Director Jenny Henty said a Newspan survey released recently showed 91 per cent of respondents thought governments should make those responsible for packaging waste deal with the mess.”</p> <p>‘Zero Waste’, Armidale Independent, 8/12/04, p.17</p>
<p>“Industry will always look to protect itself, and that’s understandable.”</p> <p>Alec Wagstaff, Coca-Cola Amatil ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p>	<p>“The producer of the packaging, who’s had the financial benefit of it, just walks away and leaves the community stranded with the problem”.</p> <p>Ian Kiernan, Chairman, Clean Up Australia ‘Business resists taking on responsibility for recycling’, 7.30 Report, 21/1/05, reporter: Jonathon Harley</p>
<p>“In a blatant attempt to undermine the National Packaging Covenant Mark II, a group of greenie extremists has singled out a handful of tiny-market, niche products which it claims have excessive packaging.”</p> <p>‘Greens hunt out non-typical products to attack Covenant’, Christopher Speary, Packaging magazine, December 2004, p.4</p>	<p>“A damaging environmental legacy is being created by wasteful packaging from household products with cosmetics and confectionary among the worst offenders. The warning was issued at the inaugural DUMP Awards – an event designed to expose damaging and useless packaging – organised by Environment Victoria, Australian Conservation Foundation and the Total Environment Centre ... Ivan Nuich, business manager Schick, agrees with the message behind the DUMP Awards.”</p> <p>‘Consumers ripped off by product packaging’, Packaging News, December 2004, p.11</p>