

MEDIA RELEASE

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Victoria crushes other States in litter and container reduction

Victoria has recorded the nation's biggest reduction in the amount of discarded litter, including beverage containers, without having Container Deposit Legislation (CDL), according to a new Keep Australia Beautiful national study released today.

The Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Litter Index survey found an across the board fall over the past three years in littered beverage containers in Victoria, which outstripped all other States in litter rates, including South Australia, which has CDL.

Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) Chief Executive Kate Carnell said the index – Australia's only annual survey on litter funded by all state and territory governments and industry – highlighted the effectiveness and success of current industry-based recycling and litter reduction programs over CDL.

“Victoria has impressively led Australia in reducing the volume of discarded litter – including glass alcoholic and metal alcoholic containers – at beaches, highways and shopping centres by more than 60 per cent over the past three years,” Ms Carnell said.

“Victoria and other states including Queensland and ACT achieved this success without having CDL, which research has shown to be a much more expensive recycling option – it would cost more than \$490 million to implement, resulting in consumers facing higher prices for bottled and canned beverages, including beer and softdrinks.”

In South Australia – where CDL has been operating since the mid 1970s as an anti-litter strategy – the volume of littered glass alcoholic containers and paperboard non-alcoholic containers (per 1000 square metres) actually increased between 2006-07 and 2008-09 (see Table ‘Dirty Dozen’ page 94). These rising container litter rates were recorded despite SA doubling its CDL to 10c per container on September 1 2008.

Ms Carnell said that one of the major reasons for Victoria's success in litter reduction was its effective enforcement regulations, including hefty fines for littering.

Independent research released by the Federal Government in May 2009 showed CDL was a more expensive option compared with the highly successful industry-led kerbside recycling and packaging waste partnership – under the world-leading National Packaging Covenant co-regulatory arrangement for the management of packaging waste – already underway in Australia.

To read the KAB National Litter Index survey, visit www.kab.org.au

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