



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE BIG BOTTLE TOUR – FOR A VICTORIAN CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

**PRESENTED TO THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
IN VICTORIA,
THE HON. MATTHEW GUY**

“VICTORIA SAYS YES TO CDS”

BIG BOTTLE TOUR 2018 FOR A CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME IN VICTORIA

Over two weeks in April we executed a crowd-funded campaign action: [The Big Bottle Tour](#)! Supported by local allies, we travelled 2,500 km with a 3-metre-long coke bottle in tow visiting ten regional towns. Our aim was to raise awareness and ask country Victorians and local politicians their views on a container deposit scheme (CDS) for Victoria.

We heard [many stories](#) and got a real sense of the overwhelming support and increasing frustration at being left behind: “Why don’t we have this already?”, “We should have introduced this years ago” and “This makes so much sense!” were the most common replies. Victorians feel that they are missing out on substantial fundraising opportunities, while also having to put up with so much more litter than neighbouring states.

During the tour, 840 people added their names to our petition list (totalling 2,832 manual and 4,608 online petitions) calling for CDS in Victoria. We have received feedback that, following our visit, many people reached out to their local politicians and demanded action on CDS. In addition, we received very warm welcomes and support from many councils, because they know a container refund scheme will help solve their recycling issues, decrease their costs and increase their revenue.

The containers¹ we have delivered to your electorate office today are a token of the growing frustration from Victorians at your lack of action on this issue, representing the following places and towns:

STAWELL	WARRNANBOOL
PORT FAIRY	HAMILTON
MILDURA	ECHUCA
BEECHWORTH	BENDIGO
CASTLEMAINE	BALLARAT
CLEAN UP – London Road outside of Stawell ²	CLEAN UP – Henty Hwy near Mooralla ³

Victoria will soon be the only mainland state without a 10 cents container deposit scheme. A container deposit scheme will [reduce litter](#), increase recycling rates, decrease the contamination rate and provide an estimated \$50 million AUD in fundraising opportunities for charity and community groups, especially in regional areas.

- (1) The containers delivered to you only include plastic and aluminium containers, all glass containers collected were recycled locally. Collection was capped at max. 20 containers pp.
- (2) We [cleaned](#) a 1 km stretch of both sides of a road outside Stawell. About a third of litter, three full bags, were drink containers, an estimated \$30 worth under the scheme.
- (3) We [cleaned](#) a 200 m stretch along the Henty Highway. 95% of litter collected were drink containers.



People all over Victoria are asking you to publicly support the implementation of a container deposit legislation without further delay! Boomerang Alliance is calling for you to include a Container Deposit Scheme in your policies and to initiate the establishment of a scheme before 2020!

Sincerely,



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THE BIG BOTTLE TOUR

After just two months, the NSW container deposit scheme is already collecting over 1.5 million containers a day. As the rest of Australia follows suit in coming months, Victoria will soon be the only mainland state without a 10 cents container refund scheme.

Plastic bottles can travel in currents for thousands of kilometers. We need container deposit schemes across Australia and we are going on a tour across Victoria with a 3m long Coke bottle in tow, calling for a 10 cent refundable deposit on bottles and cans. It will help reduce litter, increase recycling rates, decrease the contamination rate and provide great fundraising opportunities for charity and community groups, especially in regional areas.



We will travel around 2,000 km over 2 weeks. From Melbourne to Port Fairy, up to Mildura, across to Wodonga and back via Bendigo and Ballarat, passing through a host of other towns along our route. We'll talk at schools and connect with the charity and community groups that will most benefit from this scheme. We'll organise roadside clean-ups, throwing the containers we find along the way into the big bottle. At the end of the journey, we will deliver the contents of the big bottle to Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews' office.



On our tour of Victoria, we met with State and local politicians, Councils and community organisations. The following expressed their support for a CDS:

LOCAL POLITICIANS

Louise Staley MP – State Member for Ripon
 Mildura Mayor Cr Mark Eckel
 Mildura Rural City Council Cr Jason Modica
 Mount Alexander Shire Council Mayor Cr. Bronwen Machin
 Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Cr Mary-Ann Brown
 Hamilton Deputy Mayor Cr Chris Sharples
 Southern Grampians Shire council CEO Michael Tudball
 Bendigo Deputy Mayor Cr Jennifer Alden
 Maree Edwards MP - State Member for Bendigo West
 City of Ballarat Deputy Mayor Daniel Moloney
 City of Ballarat Cr Belinda Coates

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Moyne Shire Council
 Mildura Rural City Council
 Southern Grampians Shire Council
 City of Bendigo Council
 Mt Alexander Shire

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Friends of the Earth Victoria	Plastic Bag Free Echuca/Moama
Our Wonderful Country Clean Up Project	Warrnambool Coastcare and Landcare Group
Beach Patrol	Plasticwise Beechworth
Stawell Urban Landcare group	Lake Sambell Caravan Park
War on Waste Stawell	Pack&Send Shepparton
Boomerang Bags Echuca/Moama	Bendigo Zero Waste
Good Will Nurdle Hunting	Plasticbagfree Castlemaine
1st Port Fairy Sea Scouts see video	No Waste Ballarat
War on Waste Southern Grampians	Monbulk Landcare Group
Golden Beach Surf Club	Mt Toolebewong & District Landcare
Echuca Moama Broadcast Service Inc	Bayside Climate Change Action Group
Friends of Emerald Lake Park	Macclesfield Landcare Group
BEAM Mitchell Environment Group	Friends of Sherbrooke Forest Inc
Friends of Ferny Creek	Yarra Valley Ecos
Darebin Climate Action Now	Emerald Lions Club
Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions	Association of International Seafood Professionals
Southern Dandenong Landcare Group	Emerald RSL
Bob Brown Foundation	Emerald for Sustainability (EmFSus)
Healesville Environment Watch Inc	Dandenong Ranges Renewable Energy Association Inc
Croydon Conservation Society	Australian Marine Conservation Society



THE BIG BOTTLE IN THE MEDIA

[The Stawell Times: A three-metre long coke bottle visited Stawell on Saturday](#)
[Waste Management Review: Big Bottle Tour of regional Victoria for container deposit scheme](#)
[The Standard: Boomerang Alliance brings big bottle to city](#)
[ABC South West Victoria](#)
[Good Will Nurdle Hunting](#)
[ABC Mildura Facebook post](#)
[ABC Mildura: Giant soft drink bottle tours Victoria to push for container deposit scheme](#)
[Triple M Sunraysia](#)
[Mildura Weekly: Strong local call for Victorian CDS \(newspaper\)](#)
[Mildura Weekly: Strong local call for Victorian CDS \(online\)](#)
[EMFM Radio, Echuca](#)
[Riverine Herald: Recyclers rolled into town to sell deposits](#)
[Sunraysia Daily: Cents in can scheme](#)
[The Border Mail: Giant bottle touring Victoria as part of push for Garden State to follow NSW and introduce container deposit scheme](#)
[Illawara Mercury: Albury supermarket owner upbeat about compensation for container scheme as giant bottle visits Beechworth as part of campaign](#)
[The Border Mail: Positive spin of bottle](#)
[Ovens & Murray Advertiser: Can cash make cents](#)
[Ovens & Murray Advertiser: Big Bottle Tour hits the road](#)
[94.9 Main FM, Bendigo](#)
[Bendigo Advertiser: The Boomerang Alliance's The Big Bottle Tour arrives in Bendigo to promote Container Deposit Schemes](#)
[Triple M Bendigo](#)
[WIN News Bendigo Facebook post](#)
[WIN News Bendigo: Giant inflatable bottle](#)
[Nine News](#)
[Midland Express: Get plogging! Cash for cans and soft plastics](#)
[ABC Radio Ballarat](#)
[The Courier: Big bottle on tour for cash for containers push](#)
[No Waste Ballarat: Guest speaker at movie screening Baykeepers](#)
[Power 103.1 FM: Big Bottle Tour arrives in Ballarat](#)
[Corporate Waste Solutions: Drumming up support for a Container Deposit Scheme](#)
[WIN News Ballarat: Big Bottle](#)
[Flow FM](#)