



Vine Valley Regional Association  
PO Box 2000  
NSFW, 9000

The Honourable Edmund Barton  
Minister for Parks and Recreation  
C/O Parliament House  
Generic St  
NSFW 9000

**RE: Container Deposit Scheme for wine bottles**

Dear Mr Barton,

I am writing to you to express the concerns of the Vine Valley wine industry regarding the potential inclusion of wine bottles within NSW's container deposit scheme.

Glass is intrinsically linked to the world of wine and will likely remain so for some time. While positive alternative packaging innovations, such as lightweight PET bottles and even paper-based containers, are emerging across the alcohol beverage sector (often filled with very good wine), consumers still generally see the glass bottle as a signifier of quality when purchasing.

Paradoxically, while consumers continue to demand glass wine bottles, increasingly they are also demanding wine producers demonstrate their sustainability credentials, including in relation to carbon emissions, waste and recycling.

This consumer sentiment is manifesting in retailer demands at home and abroad, company sustainability commitments and government policy interventions.

In Australia, the debate about glass recycling has seemingly morphed into a binary debate about whether glass wine and spirit bottles should be included in container deposit schemes (CDS). Every state and territory in Australia either has, or will soon have, a CDS.

Such schemes were originally designed to reduce litter and, to this end, they have been very effective — driving litter reduction and an increase in recycling for those containers that were part of the litter stream, such as soft drink bottles and cans.

However, wine bottles make up less than one per cent of the public litter stream across Australia, with the vast majority being recycled in kerbside recycling bins. For this reason, wine and spirit bottles have been excluded from each of the Australian CDS systems.

With existing CDS infrastructure in place, there is a view that such systems should be retrofitted to capture wine bottles and therefore help meet this public demand for improved rates of glass recycling. But while CDSs are generally popular with the public, the problem is that including wine bottles in a CDS will not deliver better, meaningful improvements in glass recycling.

Yours faithfully

  
Doug Mulray