

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SYSTEM AND THE MANUFACTURE OF BOTTLES FROM RECYCLED GLASS

2852. Mr J.N. Hyde to the Minister for the Environment

Can the Minister confirm:

- (a) if, in the absence of a Container Deposit System (CDS) in Western Australia, there is no longer any glass bottle manufacturing from recycling in Western Australia;
- (b) if, in the absence of a CDS in Western Australia, recycled bottles in this State are railed/trucked to South Australia, where there is a CDS, creating jobs, investment and sustainability in that State;
- (c) if, in the absence of a CDS in Western Australia and its economic benefits, the only Western Australian plant sending recycled glass to Adelaide will not open on Saturdays, forcing recyclers to dump Friday nights' collections into landfill?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

- (a) There has been no manufacturing of bottles in Western Australia from recycled glass since 2004. The Government is investigating the introduction of a container deposit scheme in Western Australia as a means of improving recovery of drink containers, including glass bottles and cans. In addition, the Government has been consulting with industry and other stakeholders to explore ways to re-establish glass reprocessing in Western Australia, as increased recovery and the re-establishment of local reprocessing of recycled materials is the Government's aim.
- (b) Currently recycled bottles and glass from Western Australia are transported to South Australia for reprocessing and manufacturing into bottles. However, where container deposit schemes exist, the consistent provision of significant quantities of cleaner recycled materials can provide an incentive for investment in recycling, which in turn can support the establishment of glass reprocessing industries.
- (c) I am not aware of, nor do I wish to comment on, the operational arrangements of a specific Western Australian business. However, a change in opening hours should not significantly impact on the reprocessing of an inert material, like glass, which can be safely stored prior to transport. Nevertheless, in jurisdictions with glass reprocessing industries, the cost to transport the material is likely to be less, and hence the economics of glass recycling usually improve significantly.