



Media release

From the Minister for Environment

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VICTORIA SEEKS STRONG WASTE TARGETS

Victorian Environment Minister John Thwaites will today call for the introduction of tough targets on packaging waste at a meeting of State and Commonwealth Environment Ministers in Darwin.

Speaking ahead of the Environment Protection Heritage Council meeting, Mr Thwaites said the industry must adopt clear and measurable targets to drive further reductions in the amount of packaging going to landfill.

“If these targets aren’t met we would have to consider measures such as a container deposit or other measures to drive further recycling,” Mr Thwaites said.

Mr Thwaites said the National Packaging Covenant should include a target to achieve a recycling rate of about 65 per cent for packaging – up from the current rate of 48 per cent.

“Australia has a world class recycling system and the Covenant is a mechanism that supports and enhances this system.”

“But if we are to get further progress we need to set challenging targets for industry to meet.”

“Separate individual targets are also needed for paper, cardboard, glass, aluminium, plastic and steel – with these targets to be developed so they are consistent with an overall figure of about 65 per cent.”

Mr Thwaites said if progress under the Covenant was unsatisfactory, the States and Commonwealth should be prepared to implement alternative policies such as container deposits or packaging levies.

“The community has shown its willingness to recycle – we need industry to keep pace with this attitude and make recycling of packaging easier for consumers.

“For example industry should help improve away from home recycling in public places such as shopping centres – where more bins and recycling facilities can be provided.

“They should also continue to improve the packaging itself to reduce waste.”

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