

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Call for new container deposit legislation

Dungog Council, the Local Government and Shires Associations of NSW and Ian Kiernan AO, head of Australia's prominent Community Environment Action Group Clean Up Australia, are calling on the Australian Government to introduce container deposits legislation (CDL) as a matter of urgency.

It is hoped that at a forthcoming meeting of the ministers of the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC), container deposits/refunds will receive their full consideration.

Many people still think council makes a profit from kerbside recycling.

The fact is, this year, each rate payer with a domestic waste service contributed \$88.20 through rates to cover the cost of collecting, transporting and processing recyclables, including beverage containers.

This expensive process still only collects 50 per cent or less of the containers available, a stark contrast to the 70-85 per cent returned through deposit/refund systems like the one that operates in South Australia.

The beverage industry is getting a free ride on the back of our community.

Councils and Clean Up Australia are the organisations that collect, clean up and process their containers at great cost while they count their profits.

CDL is a way to shift the responsibility back upstream, to the manufacturers who make a profit from producing beverages and their containers.

And it means some great benefits for our community such as better recycling, cleaner streets and even income for community groups who collect discarded containers.

The case seems to be absolutely clear; that container deposit legislation is essential.

I hope that on May 22, ministers will finally heed the call of Local Government, community organizations and the environment movement and apply some clear thought to CDL and introduce it as a matter of urgency.

I would urge any community members who believe CDL should be introduced in NSW to voice their opinions to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Peter Garrett, at www.aph.gov.au/house/members/member.asp?id=HV4

Recognition for service in Malaysia

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, Dr Mike Kelly, has announced that he has accepted the recommendations of the Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal report of the inquiry into recognition for service by Australian military personnel who served with 4th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (4RAR), in Malaysia in 1966-67.

The tribunal has recommended that the end date for the Australian Active Service Medal (AASM) 1945-75 with Clasp 'MALAYSIA' be extended to 14 September, 1966, inclusive for service in Borneo.

In particular, the tribunal has recommended that members of 4RAR who served at Terendak from May 1967 to September 1967 are not eligible for the AASM with Clasp 'MALAYSIA', the General Service Medal (GSM) 1962 with Clasp 'MALAYA PENINSULA and the Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM).

The tribunal has also recommended that the Government takes no action to recommend to either the Government of the United Kingdom or the Government of Malaysia that changes be made to the eligibility for the GSM or PJM to include members of 4RAR after June 12, 1965, and December 31, 1966, respectively.

Ex-serving ADF members who believe they may now be eligible for the AASM with clasp 'MALAYSIA' should contact Defence Honours and Awards.

Inquiries: toll free on 1800 111 321.

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