

Hon Dr Steven Miles MP Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Ref CTS 03527/16

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Mr Neil Laurie The Clerk of the Parliament Parliament House George Street BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 17 February 2016 enclosing a copy of Petition No. 2510-15 lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly. Please accept this letter as my response to this petition and I request that, under Standing Order 32, you table the response by Thursday, 17 March 2016.

The Queensland Government is investigating options for a container deposit scheme. This has included the establishment of a Container Deposit Scheme Advisory Group in 2015 to assist the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in the preparation of suitable options for public consultation.

As part of this investigation the Government is also closely watching the New South Wales process, where the state government has pledged to introduce a container deposit scheme in 2017. If the Government decides to introduce a scheme in Queensland, it is desirable that there should be consistency between the states in key elements of the scheme.

I certainly appreciate that there is significant community support for a container deposit scheme. I will continue to talk to key stakeholders, including environment and community groups, to ensure that we can develop the best arrangement for Queensland to address the issue of beverage container litter in our environment.

Further information about the Container Deposit Scheme Advisory Group is available at http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-scheme.html.

Yours sincerely

DR STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef