

MEDIA STATEMENT

04/03/25

Regarding: Victorian Government Glass kerbside recycling bin for households

From: Mayor of Maroondah, Councillor Kylie Spears

Maroondah City Council is one of 29 Victorian Councils actively advocating to the Victorian Government to postpone the mandatory implementation for Councils to provide a glass only bin service to households. Currently, the Victorian Government requires all local governments to implement this service by 1 July 2027.

The group of Councils advocating for this delay include a range of Victorian Councils from across metropolitan and regional areas, all of which are concerned about the cost implications the glass only bin service will have on their community.

As part of this advocacy, a group of Councils wrote a letter to the Minister for Environment, the Hon Steve Dimopoulos, in late 2024 outlining their research findings and appealing for the system to be reviewed.

The research undertaken found that a glass only service would cost a typical Council approximately \$4 million to implement, and on average cost an additional \$27 per household per year to run the service. This would be the largest increase to a waste charge that has ever been passed on to our community, something that in these challenging economic times, is concerning and unrealistic.

The research also showed that expanding the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to include wine and spirit bottles would have similar circularity benefits to a glass only bin, less contamination and would remove the need for millions of dollars of implementation costs for Councils.

Extending this deadline would provide Councils with more time to understand the positive impact of the CDS on our recycling volumes, which are steadily declining with the successful uptake of the CDS, and to create a national approach that aligns with all states and territories.

The expansion of the CDS program would not only provide similar environmental benefits as a kerbside glass service but it would also be more cost effective to Councils and the community. Using existing infrastructure and a service that is already being used frequently and effectively by the community would require less investment, resourcing and education.

An example is business cases released by the Queensland and South Australian Governments that assessed the net benefits of a glass only bin. As a result of this research, they opted to expand the CDS to include wine and spirit bottles instead of implementing a glass only bin service.

Postponing the implementation date for the glass only bin would provide Councils more time to work with the Victorian Government on our research findings and find a way forward that maximises recycling efforts, but minimises the financial impact on local communities during what are challenging economic times for households. Delaying the implementation date will also allow states and territories time to create a national standard for household bins.

The group of 29 Victorian Councils are asking for the Victorian Government to listen to these concerns and delay the mandatory implementation date so that alternative options that already exist (such as the CDS) can be appropriately considered before forcing the implementation of a fourth kerbside glass recycling bin and exorbitant costs on to our community.

-ENDS-

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