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OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPROVED CASH FOR CONTAINERS SCHEME

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the welcome news that the NSW Government is going to introduce a Cash for Container Scheme in that state is a great opportunity for the NT to take the lead in improving the scheme.

He says now that there are two states and the Territory with the scheme, it is a chance to make sure the three schemes are compatible with one another especially as NSW borders SA and there will naturally be movement of containers between those two states.

He says it also a great chance for the types of containers which are not presently covered by the scheme to be included in a more inclusive scheme.

**Gerry says now is the perfect time to include wine bottles, milk and fruit juice containers in the scheme.** Presently in SA and the NT those containers do not attract a deposit. They were left out either because they didn’t quite fit within the SA legislation definition of a beverage or because of opposition from some fairly powerful industry groups like the wine industry who didn’t want their product included in the scheme.

Gerry says these exemptions for various containers not only cause confusion in the community but also reduce the amount of materials that that can be returned and recycled.

He says our Minister for the Environment should be leading the charge and talking to the other states to make sure Cash for Container Schemes are uniform between the states and the Territory and cover as many containers as possible.

_Cessi foro gallinarum sed surgo_