

Rising tide of support



Sam Walker (left) was among those to pitch in and help clean up the Cooks River.



Picture: ALAN WILSON/STRIKE

Jessica Clement

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER URGED TO RESPOND

THE NSW government has yet to formulate an official position on a container deposit scheme but pressure is mounting on Environment Minister Robyn Parker.

Widespread local support for the scheme revolves around Cooks River support organisations: the Cooks River Valley Association, the Maderaba and the Cooks River Alliance.

The Express has received more than 26 messages of support of a container

SAVE THE COOKS

scheme since we launched our Save the Cocks campaign last week.

A spokesman for Ms Parker said the government's position on a statewide container deposit scheme had yet to be taken to cabinet.

He said Ms Parker and her fellow Australian environment ministers would

consider community feedback on the scheme at their next meeting at the end of this month.

"The NSW Government will not deliver a scheme that increases the already rising cost of living," the spokesman said.

He said the government would be supporting the most "cost-effective" option that best helps NSW achieve litter reduction.

Cooks River Valley As-

sociation's water quality coordinator Gayle Adams implored the government to get behind the scheme.

"This is an environmentally and economically sound measure that encourages people to reduce their litter," Ms Adams said. "They should get behind it 100 per cent."

Join our campaign to save the Cocks River at theexpress.com.au

HOW TO HELP

WHAT: join our campaign to help clean up the Cocks River by calling for the introduction of a container deposit scheme in NSW that would swap bottles and cans for cash rewards.

WHERE: Go to our website to support the Save the Cocks campaign

HOW: We will forward your messages to NSW Environment Minister Robyn Parker.

FROM THE WEB

Thank you Express for taking up this very important cause. I walk alongside the river near Tempe Reserve most days, and find it very distressing at low tide to see all the rubbish and plastic bottles in the river. I am positive a bottle and can deposit scheme would work just as well as in other states. Please, State Government, make it happen!

LISA NEWBY

When first elected to Canterbury Council in 2008 I put up a motion to support Container Deposit Legislation after seeing a flotilla of plastic bottles in the Cocks River. How little has changed! It's time for governments to act. Save Our Rivers!

CR LINDA EISLER

Please introduce container deposit legislation ASAP. It breaks my heart to see our beautiful river full of plastic bottles!

LAURA HART

Let's put some pressure on the state government to support Container Deposit Legislation for the sake of the Cocks River. Thank you for the coverage of this very important issue.

JENNIFER KENT

Let's clean up the Cocks River by running a trial container deposit scheme along its valley. C'mon, Minister, what have we got to lose? Take a stand!

SIMON SHARWOOD

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