Dear Mr Wilkinson

Please support a Cash for Containers Scheme to clean up our environment

I am writing to advise the Federation of a recent unanimous decision by Canterbury Girls High School P&C supporting the introduction of a national Cash for Containers (Container Deposit) Scheme. This decision is strongly endorsed by students who are working with the school on a “Postcode 2193 – Plastic Water Bottle Free” campaign and taking a number of steps to reduce the amount of bottle waste at the school. This includes the recent installation of a reusable water bottle fountain (with the support of the SEA LIFE Conservation Fund) and banning disposable water bottles from sale at the school canteen.

The following resolution was passed at the P&C meeting on 26th June 2013.

1. Canterbury Girls High School P&C congratulates the School and its student on installing the reusable water bottle fountain and banning disposable water bottles from the canteen as part of the students “Postcode 2193 – plastic water bottle free” campaign.

2. The P&C President is requested to write to the NSW Premier and Environment Minister to ask that the NSW Government strongly support the introduction of a Cash for Containers (Container Deposit) Scheme. The P&C notes that South Australia has had a Cash for Containers scheme for 35 years and has a recycling rate of plastic bottles twice that of the rest of Australia. The P&C believes that such a scheme is the most effective and affordable way of reducing the large number of plastic bottles that pollute our parks, beaches and waterways (such as the long suffering Cooks River) and harm water birds, turtles and other wildlife. The P&C notes that a Cash for Containers Scheme has already been supported by the governments of the Commonwealth, South Australia, Northern Territory, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT, and understands that the support of the NSW Government is crucial to achieving a national scheme.

3. Recognising the role of Coca Cola in obstructing the introduction of a national Cash for Containers Scheme, including lobbying Governments against the scheme and taking legal action against the Northern Territory when it introduced such a scheme in 2012, the P&C calls on the school canteen not to sell Coca Cola products until either: a national Cash for Containers scheme is adopted; or Coca Cola takes a more responsible approach to reducing the pollution cause by its products.
4. The President is requested to provide a copy of this resolution to Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW to ask other parent bodies to consider the adoption of similar resolution in their school environment, in consultation with students and their local schools.

There has been keen interest across the local community in the campaign, particularly from other parent communities and students. Reflecting this support, parents have asked me to communicate this initiative to the Federation and ask other parent bodies to consider similar initiatives.

I have attached for your information a copy of the letter that has been sent to Premier O’Farrell. If I can provide any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jo-anne Schofield
President
P&C Association
Canterbury Girls High School

12th July 2013