

1 December 2017

Mr Mike Rowe
Director General
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 33, Cloisters Square,
PERTH WA 6850



By email
mike.rowe@dwer.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Rowe,

Re. Statutory Requirement for Barcodes and a Refund Mark.

As you are aware, the six States and Territories which have, or are in the process of instituting Container Deposit/Refund Schemes (CDRS) have been meeting to discuss the harmonisation of the requirements which will be placed upon beverage manufacturers nationally in relation to your CDRS's. Specifically, we write today as the NSW Government on 24 November 2017 gazetted their statutory requirements for label requirements on eligible containers. Information concerning the NSW requirements for the Barcode and the Refund Mark can be found at <https://goo.gl/byQWaq> or in the Regulation at <https://goo.gl/9CPYYb>.

As you would appreciate, a key concern for beverage manufacturers is gaining uniformity or harmonisation on these matters issue across all CDRS States and Territories so we can harmonise product labels nationally.

You may also be aware that new Commonwealth legislation concerning labelling requirements pertaining to 'Country of Origin' (CoOL) manufacturing, will come into effect on the 1 July 2018. It is our hope that we will be able to combine the necessary label changes for both CDRS and Country of Origin label into one process to minimise the costs to businesses and consumers. On that basis, we write to you today asking for your urgent formal advice that your jurisdiction concurs with the NSW approach and that your State or Territory can confirm your legislation will align or correspond with NSW. This will permit Beverage Manufacturers to commence the process of amending their labels to be compliant with both CDRS and CoOL where necessary.

We now seek your formal assurance of your agreement to align with the NSW requirements. Due to the pressing deadlines and the significant lead time required to make changes to labels, we ask if you would kindly endeavour to confirm your acceptance by Friday 8 December 2017, so we can notify our Members and other stakeholders as a matter of urgency.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please don't hesitate to contact me on 0407 406 400 or via alby@ausbev.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alby Taylor".

Alby Taylor
General Manager

