

SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL PIONEER BEN KEARNEY TO CHAIR TASRECYCLE BOARD

TasRecycle today announced that respected small business and environmental advocate, Ben Kearney, will join the board of the not-for-profit organisation with a view to becoming its inaugural Chair.



Mr Kearney is well-known as the person who started and managed the incredibly successful plastic shopping bag free town project in Coles Bay in 2003, which ultimately led to Coles Bay becoming the first town in Australia to ban plastic shopping bags, with many other towns in Australia and overseas following their lead.

TasRecycle director, Jeff Maguire, said he was thrilled to have Mr Kearney agree to join the not-for-profit organisation.

“We are thrilled to have an environmental pioneer and strong small business advocate of Mr Kearney’s calibre agree to join TasRecycle. Ben is a board member of the Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia and is well known for his positive work, which has helped to reduce litter and waste in Tasmania and around Australia”, Mr Maguire said.

“As a not-for-profit organisation, TasRecycle is all about empowering individuals and community groups to contribute to a cleaner environment, and there is no one better qualified to lead this push than Mr Kearney.”

Mr Kearney said he had agreed to join the TasRecycle Board because he likes the community model which aligns with his personal passions and values.

“I am passionate about taking practical measures that contribute to a cleaner environment, that support local small businesses and community organisations and that build better communities by keeping the benefits locally. I am excited about the pending introduction of the proposed Tasmanian

Container Deposit Scheme, something I advocated for over 10-years ago.

“I grew up on the west coast of Tasmania and I remember well collecting bottles to redeem them at the local milk bar. It is great that the next generation of Tasmanians will now be able to be part of that solution too.

“I am particularly attracted to TasRecycle’s not-for-profit structure which will ensure maximum benefit for community and sporting groups who participate, while also helping to keep Tasmania beautiful. It prioritises jobs, community benefits and a role for everyone.

“As a small business advocate, I am also attracted to the opportunities that a well-designed not-for-profit scheme will provide to Tasmanian small businesses and their employees.”

Mr Maguire said that Mr Kearney’s appointment to the Board and ultimately as Chair was expected to be confirmed in coming weeks.

FACT FILE – BEN KEARNEY

- Started and managed the plastic shopping bag free town project in Coles Bay in 2003
- Australian of the Year Awards - Australian of the Year Local Hero 2005
- Tasmanian of the Year Award 2005
Tasmanian Tourism Awards – Minister’s Young Achiever Award 2004
- Currently CEO of the Australian Lottery and Newsagents Association

TasRecycle is a not-for-profit joint initiative founded by Coca-Cola Amatil and Lion (owner of Boags Brewery).

Coca-Cola Amatil and Lion have been involved in the operation and administration of container deposit or refund schemes for more than 40 years, having been involved in implementing four schemes across Australia in the last six years. They have a unique ability to leverage their experience and resources to deliver a successful scheme designed specifically for Tasmania

