



COMMUNIQUE

2 July 2004

Environment Ministers Target Waste from Consumer Packaging

Australia's environment Ministers, meeting as the Environment Protection and Heritage Council, today discussed the future management of consumer packaging waste in Australia.

Since 1999, consumer packaging and paper waste have been managed through the National Packaging Covenant and the National Environment Protection Measure (NEPM) for Used Packaging Materials. At its April 2004 meeting, Council agreed to extend the National Packaging Covenant to April 2005 in order to review its operation and coverage.

In this context Ministers anticipate receiving a proposal from the National Packaging Covenant Council for a substantially strengthened Covenant for their next meeting, expected in October 2004.

Ministers today agreed to extend the NEPM on an interim basis until July 2005 in accordance with the *National Environment Protection Council Act 1994*. The extension of the NEPM will provide regulatory support to the Covenant whilst governments consider future options for managing consumer packaging waste.

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