



BEVERAGE CONTAINERS 27 May 2002

Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders): Will the Minister for Environment and Conservation advise the house when information and material to educate the public and recycling agents on changes to beverage container legislation to come into force on 1 January 2003 will become available? The Liberal government extended the type of containers covered by the legislation that is to come into force on 1 January 2003. Recycling agents are becoming increasingly restive as the time approaches and ignorance of the new provisions abounds.

The Hon. J.D. HILL (Minister for Environment and Conservation): I thank the honourable member for this important question. Interestingly enough, a couple of days ago I spoke with officers of my department who deal with that issue, so I am well briefed on what is going on. As the former minister and probably some members would know, getting organised to introduce that new regime early next year is quite a cumbersome process, because hundreds of items have to be assessed and many companies have to be in-formed, and the departmental officers are going through that process now. I asked them the same question: when will the advertising campaign be undertaken? An extensive advertising campaign will need to be undertaken, naturally, both for consumers and producers. I am advised that that campaign will start well before the kick-off date of 1 January 2003. As to the exact date on which it will begin, I cannot tell the house now, but I will get further advice and inform members