



Green push: Richard Paterson with the new carbon-neutral bottled water. Picture: TREVOR PINDER

Bottles in hot water

Holly life

consumer reporter

ONE bottle of water has the same impact on the environment as driving a car 1km, a study has shown.

The British research, aired on a BBC *Panorama* documentary, found the production of some bottled water brands generated up to 600 times more CO₂ than tap water.

Planet Ark founder John Dee agreed, saying it took two litres of water and 200ml of oil to produce a single litre bottle of water.

"Australians spend more than \$500 million a year on bottled water. Our tap water is extremely good quality and it doesn't make sense," Mr Dee said.

He said only 35 per cent of plastic bottles were recycled, the rest ending up as litter or landfill.

Clean Up Australia chairman Ian Kiernan said those who bought bottled water then reused the bottle were kidding themselves.

"If you bought a bottle of water and refilled it from the tap, you would need to do that for around eight years to recover the cost of one bottle," Mr Kiernan said.

But Tony Gentile of the Australasian Bottled Water Institute said it

PUSH TO RECYCLE

FAMILY First Senator Stephen Fielding will push for the introduction of a national recycling scheme when the Senate sits in March.

The Victorian Senator will introduce legislation for a national container deposit scheme, similar to a South Australian scheme.

He said the scheme would lift container recycling from 38 per cent to 85 per cent, reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 300,000 tonnes a year and reduce waste by half a million tonnes per year.

was a "furphy" to compare bottled water with tap water, because bottled water competed against other commercial beverages.

"The environmental impact of bottled water is a lot lower than other commercial beverages, such as soft drink or flavoured milk," he said.

Yarra Valley Spring Water will next month launch a carbon neutral bottled water.

Cool Change water will be processed in a plant powered by bio-diesel, in bottles made from fermented corn starch that bio-degrade in 80 days, managing director Richard Paterson said.