

# **Bundanoon town meeting votes to ban bottled water**

## **355 votes to 1**

**July 9 2009:** The NSW Southern Highlands town of Bundanoon has voted to become Australia's first town to ban bottled water.

The standing room only town meeting last night was attended by 356 people. 355 people voted in favour of a total ban on bottled water. Only 1 person voted against the ban.

Subject to the vote, all retailers in the 2,500 population town had already agreed to stop the sale of single-use bottled water.

"Bundanoon could not have made its position clearer on bottled water," said Huw Kingston, the owner of the town's combined cafe and bike shop. "We can go forward with the strength of the community and Bundanoon's businesses right behind us."

"It was the biggest ever turnout in the Bundanoon community – this is a common sense approach for which there is overwhelming support," Mr Kingston said.

"The Bundanoon community has voted unequivocally to ban bottled water", said Do Something Chairman Jon Dee, who helped to drive the ban on plastic bags in the Tasmanian town of Coles Bay. "We are very much hoping that this move will get Australians to rethink the half billion dollars a year that they spend on bottled water. Just as Coles Bay led the way on plastic bags, we believe that Bundanoon will lead the way on bottled water".

The town's shops will replace single-use bottled water with refillable bottles. For a small fee, consumers will be able to refill their bottles with chilled filter water in shops. Alternatively, people will be able to fill their bottles with free filtered water from public water fountains in the main street. These hi-tech filtered water fountains have been donated to Bundanoon by the filter company Culligan Water and Street Furniture Australia.

Bundanoon's push has already led to reductions in bottled water use. Kingston and Dee joined in congratulating the NSW Premier Nathan Rees on his decision yesterday to follow the lead of Bundanoon by banning bottled water in all Government Departments.

**Jon Dee and Huw Kingston will be available for interview from 5am**

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