



Media Release
16 February 2018

RETURN AND EARN – SHORT TERM ISSUES WILL BE OVERCOME

Hyper-criticism by some media outlets of short term issues being experienced by the NSW container deposit system, Return and Earn, is inflated nonsense, environment groups said today.

“Every such scheme in the world has a ramp up period and it takes time for financially viable infrastructure to be put in place and for the community to adapt. To think that the current issues will be permanent features is ridiculous. Clearly the hyper critical commentators aren’t interested in a proven program being given time to sort out our serious recycling and litter problems,” said Jeff Angel, Director of TEC and Boomerang.

“New collection points are being opened every week and it’s very gratifying that the community wants more. As for the alleged consumer rip-off, the arrangements are no different to what occurs in South Australia - returns are projected; advance payment made by bottlers; and in the next quarter adjustments are made according to actual returns. Many bottlers then reduce their prices if there was overpayment. As the system settles in projections become more accurate. The initial agreed prices are to be reviewed after February.”

“From our research, the 67% return rate for the first few months is close to what we predicted. It will gradually ramp up to about 80%.”

“Return and Earn is a big, new program and NSW is the first state in Australia to bring in the modern, automated system that is necessary for our big cities and towns. The government, community and Tomra/Cleanaway are to be congratulated for their commitment and support,” Mr Angel said.