

For immediate release

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C'mon Queensland! Time to Introduce Cash for Containers

With the announcement that NSW will introduce a genuine container deposit scheme (cash for containers) in July 2017, the pressure and expectation is now on the Queensland Government to follow suit.

'Queensland is regarded as the most littered state, with discarded containers the bulk of litter found. A cash for containers scheme will slash that litter rate and dramatically increase recycling,' said Toby Hutcheon, QLD Manager of the Boomerang Alliance

'The NSW scheme is aimed at achieving a 40% reduction in litter by 2020, something that Boomerang Alliance believes is very achievable with an effective scheme.'

'With 85% of the Queensland community behind a cash for containers scheme, we are calling on the State Government and the State Opposition to put aside political differences and back the scheme in QLD with an early start date.'

A Cash for Containers scheme will also create 100's of jobs in Queensland and essential funding for community organisations interested in collecting cans and bottles and running depots.

'It's a win for the environment and a win for the community.'

This month a Commonwealth Senate Report into Marine Debris unanimously supported cash for containers, as well other regulatory actions on plastic bags and microbeads.

According to the CSIRO, three quarters of the rubbish found along our coastline is plastic, with South Australia having considerably less container litter. South Australia has a container deposit scheme.

The 2015 Clean Up Australia Rubbish Report (QLD) found that 41% of rubbish collected was plastic with beverage containers representing 32% of litter and food packaging a further 22%.

About the NSW Cash for Container Scheme

It is aimed at achieving the NSW litter reduction target of 40% by 2020.

Under the scheme, anyone who returns an eligible beverage container to an approved collection point will receive a 10-cent refund.

Collection points include Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) and council/community drop off centres

All beverage containers between 150 ml and 3 litres will be eligible. * These are similar items, and consistent with, SA and NT schemes.

* Exceptions include plain milk, flavoured milk (above 1 litre) pure fruit and vegetable juice (above 1 litre), wine and spirits, cordials and health tonics.

Beverage suppliers will be responsible for providing the refund and associated costs

The scheme covers the whole of NSW

Every eligible container must display an EPA approved label

A State Coordinator will be responsible for running the scheme

Councils, charities and community organisations can participate in the scheme. A refund on containers left in kerbside can be redeemed.