

MEDIA RELEASE

6 October 2016

**Consumers to be ripped off by NSW bottle deposit scheme?**

Consumers who are at the center of the NSW beverage container deposit scheme are at risk of losing their refunds because supermarkets and the NSW government are preventing convenient bottle and can refund points, the Boomerang Alliance of 42 groups said today.

"The scheme is intended to motivate consumers to recycle and achieve Mike Baird's litter reduction target - but why would you bother if you can't find a convenient place to get your refund? With legislation about to be introduced into Parliament, the government needs to fix this urgently," said Dave West, National Policy Director of the Alliance.

"Consumers could lose up to \$80 a year. Retailers sell 3 billion drinks a year - they are an obvious point for consumer redemption - otherwise Coles and Woolworths remain part of the litter problem. There are plenty of models for retailer engagement that could fit in with Australian conditions without imposing costs on the retailers and supermarkets."

"We are releasing research today showing the best performing schemes overseas have the best container recovery rate when retailers are integrated into the system by having collection points in or near the store. However we understand Coles and Woolworths are opposing this and ignoring the financial benefits to consumers and to retailers from consumer loyalty."

"We campaigned against Coke for years to get the scheme up - we aren't going to stop now and Coles and Woolworths are in our sights. We are calling on our supporters, local councils and MPs to joint the campaign," Mr. West said.

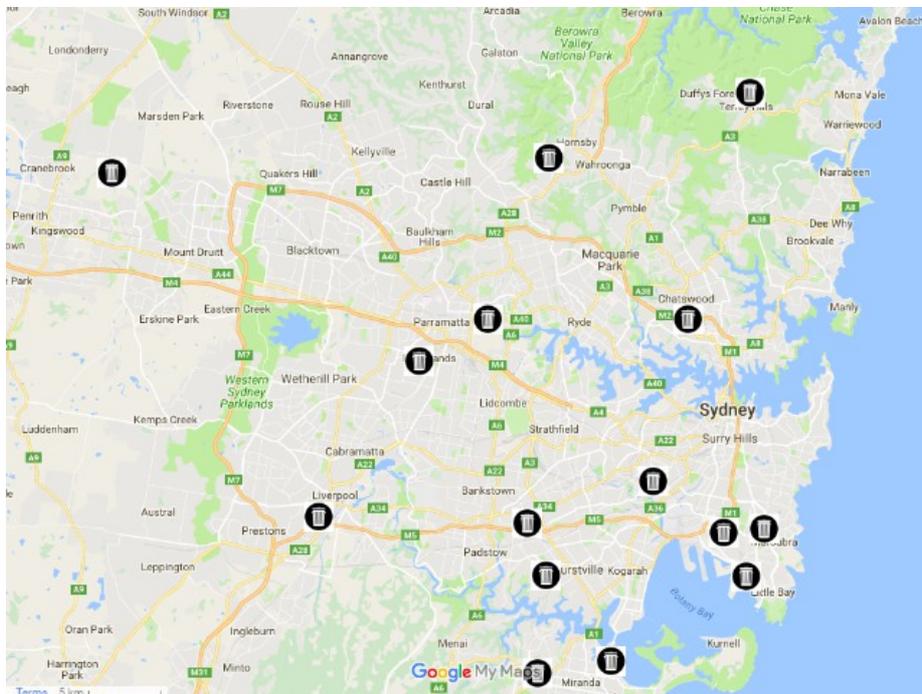
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**The Facts**

In February 2015, NSW Premier Mike Baird and Former Environment Minister, Rob Stokes announced NSW will have a drink container deposit scheme (CDS) implemented to commence July 2017. During this announcement, NSW was promised a container deposit scheme that will be 'the very best in the world.' However, the recent release of the NSW EPA draft CDS, is a far cry from the promised 'World's Best Practice CDS'. Falling short in many areas, one of the greatest concerns is the lack of consumer convenience- hindering the Baird Government's goals to reduce the state's litter by 40 per cent by 2020.

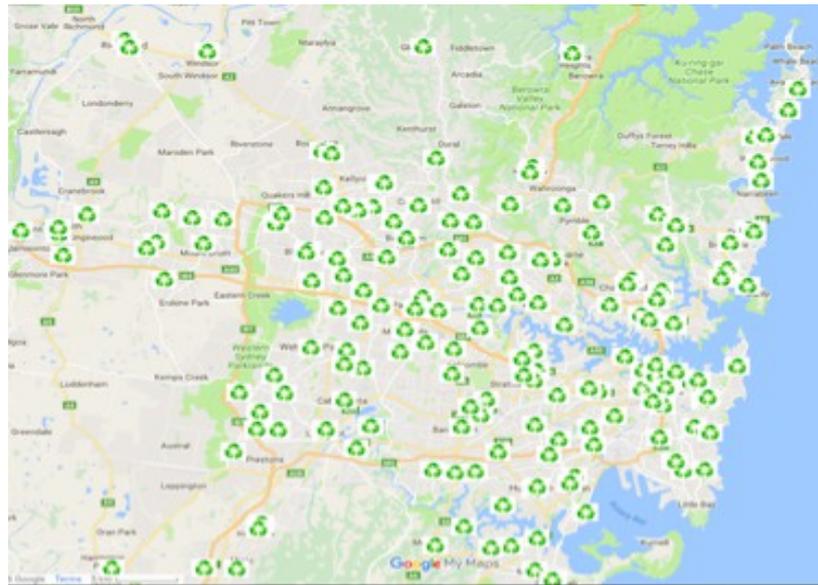
Within the draft there are claims of ‘state-wide coverage’ and ‘access’, but there is no detail within the draft mentioning how this will be achieved and in briefings with key industry and groups has described the network of collection points being ‘mostly located at waste facilities across NSW – that means driving to the local tip every time a consumer wants a refund!

This approach is similar to that adopted by the NT scheme in 2012, which after 4 years if operation has just 3 depots servicing the Greater Darwin area and is a far cry from the 800 conveniently located Reverse Vending Machines promised by Premier Baird when he announced it just before the 2015 state election. It is expected the NSW rollout will be sub-optimal in terms of convenience and will leave thousands of people at a disadvantage to the scheme. Robbing many of their refunds due to inconvenience.



### **Existing Infrastructure for Collection Points Throughout Greater Sydney**

The key feature of every successful Container Deposit System introduced in the last 10 years is retailer obligations. Recognising that major supermarkets sell most of the beverages that end up polluting our parks and waterways, regulators generally have conditions requiring retailers to do their bit – by providing space to install Reverse Vending Machines around their premises and educating consumers about what is covered by the deposit and how to get your refund.



### A Potential Redemption Network Based on Major Retailers Throughout Greater Sydney

<i>Jurisdiction (Population)<sup>1</sup> Commencement Yr</i>	<i>Recovery rate</i>	<i>Retailer Obligation to provide space?</i>	<i>Retailer Obligation to provide refund / consumer education?</i>
<i>Newfoundland (0.5mill population) Commenced: 1997</i>	65%	No – 56 Depots	Yes
<i>Norway (5mill population) Commenced: 1999</i>	95%	Yes – 25,000 locations	Yes
<i>Israel (7.9mill population) Commenced: 2000</i>	77%	Yes – Return to retail; unknown no. of locations	Yes
<i>Denmark (5.6mill population) Commenced: 2002</i>	89%	Yes – 6,500 locations	Yes
<i>Germany (81.9mill population) Commenced: 2003</i>	96-98.5%	Yes – 135,000 locations	Yes
<i>Estonia (1.3mill population) Commenced: 2004</i>	79%	Yes – 570 locations	Yes
<i>Hawaii, USA (1.3mill population) Commenced: 2005</i>	68.4%	No – 72 Depots	No
<i>Netherlands (16.8mill population) Commenced: 2005</i>	> 95%	Yes – 4,300 locations	Yes
<i>Croatia (4.3mill population) Commenced: 2006</i>	Not Available	Yes – details unavailable	Yes
<i>Ontario (12.9mill population) Commenced: 2007</i>	82%	Yes – 825 locations	Yes
<i>Manitoba (1.2mill population) Commenced: 2008</i>	81%	Yes – Return to retail; unknown no. of locations	Yes
<i>Northern Territory, Australia – 2013</i>	54.2%	No – 9 Depots	No
<i>Lithuania (3mill population 2016</i>	(first Yr of Operation)	Yes – 1,000 locations	Yes

<sup>1</sup> Table excludes two jurisdictions (Prince Edward Island Canada and the NW Territories Canada) as they are such small populations (100,000 & 40,000 respectively) that they do not reflect a typical jurisdiction.