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MEDIA RELEASE

QLDERS RECYCLE 3 BILLION CONTAINERS IN JUST TWO YEARS OF THE CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE SCHEME

Queenslanders have ensured over 3 billion drink containers have been kept out of the environment or buried in landfill in just over two years of participation in the Containers for Change scheme.

The scheme passed the 3 billion containers returned milestone just before it marked two years since the first eligible container was returned for refund back on November 1, 2018.

The Containers for Change scheme refunds 10 cents to individuals, charities, community and sporting groups, as well as to local councils and material recovery facilities for every eligible container returned.

There are over 300 separate Container Refund Points (CRPs) across the State that enable people to engage in the scheme.

The amount of beverage container litter that has been collected and returned is impressive when the true benefits of the recycling is quantified.

The scheme has been responsible for a 54% reduction in beverage container litter in Queensland already.

And the elimination of 3 billion containers in the environment equals 3.63 million full wheelie bins or over 871,000 cubic metres of material saved from landfill.

It also equates to having over 113,000 cars taken permanently off the road or saving the yearly energy use of 275,000 households.

In a real boost for the community, the scheme has also converted over \$3 million in donations to charity and sporting groups, as supporters gift their refunds to their chosen organisation.

Ken Noye is the chief executive of Container Exchange, the not-for-profit organisation that administers the Containers for Change scheme.

He said Queensland needed to be congratulated for reaching such an impressive milestone after just two years of returning containers.

“The people of Queensland have ensured they are playing their part in keeping the environment clear of beverage container waste,” he said.

“A milestone like 3 billion containers returned seemed so far away when our CRPs started exchanging containers just two years ago.

“But we have achieved this impressive number and everyone who has engaged with the scheme needs to be commended for their efforts.



“Despite this number being a strong effort to celebrate on our second birthday, we cannot rest on this milestone.

“Our target is to recycle more than 85 per cent of containers sold in Queensland.

“To keep Queensland beautiful, we need everyone to get behind our scheme target and return their containers.”

New CRPs will continue to open across Queensland to aid these recycling efforts.

Since the start of September, new CRPs have been installed at Beerwah, Maleny and Mount Tamborine; in the Brisbane suburbs of Browns Plains, Capalaba and Woolloongabba; and by the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council on the Cape York Peninsula.

For more information on the Containers for Change scheme, see <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/>

ENDS

Note: a spokesperson is available for comment.

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Cleaning up our state since November 2018, Containers for Change aims to increase recycling rates and reduce litter by allowing Queenslanders to exchange eligible drink containers to either earn a 10 cent refund for each container returned, or donate the proceeds of those refunds to their nominated community group.

COEX is the non-profit organisation that implements the logistics of the Containers for Change scheme, and ensures the scheme fulfils its role and responsibilities on behalf of the Queensland State Government.