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MEDIA RELEASE

NATIONAL RECYCLING WEEK: QUEENSLANDERS URGED TO CASH IT NOT TRASH IT

Queenslanders have been urged to review their recycling habits during National Recycling Week as a research report revealed that 45% of Australian councils had seen an increase in contamination of kerbside recycling bins since COVID-19.

Planet Ark's *Beyond The Bin* report released this week also showed that soft plastic contamination in kerbside recycling bins was the most common issue faced by Australian councils who offered the service.

Ken Noye is Chief Executive Officer of Container Exchange, the not-for-profit that operates Queensland's Containers for Change container refund scheme. Mr Noye urged all Queenslanders to pay close attention to how they disposed of their recyclable waste.

"We have seen Queenslanders embrace the Containers for Change scheme and earlier this month we celebrated our second birthday and the return of the 3 billionth container through the scheme," Mr Noye said.

"The success of the scheme has shown that people are willing to change the way they look at waste and we hope this flows on to ensuring they are recycling the right items in the right way."

The scheme has contributed to a 54 per cent decrease in beverage container litter in the Queensland environment in its two years of existence.

In that time the Greater Brisbane region has exchanged over 975 million containers for refunds, returning \$97.5 million to residents, charities, community groups and businesses.

"Our scheme has set an ambitious target of recycling 85 per cent of all beverage containers sold in Queensland by July 2022," said Mr Noye.

"This is a job for all Queenslanders – to get behind the scheme and ensure they are correctly disposing of their containers.

"We need to keep our environment clean by recycling through our scheme Container Refund Points (CRPs).

"You can also recycle by using a yellow top council recycling bin.

"Disposing of containers in general rubbish bins sees them go directly to landfill, adversely impacting our environment."



Now in its 25th year, National Recycling Week runs from Monday November 9 to Sunday November 15 and provides an important opportunity for councils, workplaces, schools and individuals to improve their recycling knowledge, build better habits and build trust in recycling.

For more information on Containers for Change and how you can cash in when you recycle, see <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/>.

ENDS

Please note: Container Exchange has a spokesperson available for interview.

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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.