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MEDIA RELEASE

**STATE RECYCLING RECORD TUMBLES AS
QUEENSLANDERS CASH IN FOR CHRISTMAS**

QUEENSLANDERS are using the Containers for Change scheme to find extra cash for Christmas with a state recycling record being broken yesterday.

Recyclers across the state returned 7.366 million containers for refunds yesterday, smashing the previous record by more than 600,000 containers,

Until yesterday the record for the largest single day of returns was December 23, 2019 when 6.726 million containers were returned across the state.

The Containers for Change scheme pays 10 cents for each eligible beverage container returned by individuals, community groups and businesses at registered Container Refund Points (CRPs).

Yesterday's massive redemption total equates to more than \$736,000 in refunds being claimed on the one day.

The Christmas-New Year period is traditionally the busiest time for containers returns, with the warmer summer months driving beverage sales and affording people the time to collect and return containers through their local CRPs.

Last month's November redemption total fell just short of the all-time record monthly high of 164 million attained in January this year, setting the scene for even more volume milestones to tumble this festive season.

Despite the disruptions of the mid-year COVID restrictions, the Greater Brisbane region has returned 30% more eligible containers in 2020 than they did in the same period last year, with over 520 million containers and \$52 million in refunds claimed in the area this year alone.

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

He said the scheme was prepared for a bumper festive season of recycling.

"The Christmas-New Year time is always the busiest time of year for the Containers for Change scheme and we expect the current period to bring unprecedented numbers of containers returned for refund," said Mr Noye.

"Recycling through our scheme is a great way to gain some extra cash around Christmas, or to choose your favourite charity and donate your refund to them by using their unique Scheme ID.

"Despite the changes to returning containers during the COVID restrictions, the scheme has still seen growth in 2020 across all regions in Queensland.



COEX CONTAINER
EXCHANGE

“An ambitious target has been set to recycle 85 per cent of all beverage containers sold in the state by July 2022.

“It is everyone’s job to get behind that scheme for the good of our local environment by ensuring their containers are disposed of correctly – either by being returned for refund at one of our CRPs, or by going in the council-provided yellow-top bin.

“As yesterday’s volume total demonstrated, our operators are set for a busy time over December and January and are ready to accept your containers and process your refunds swiftly and safely at our more than 300 CRPs across the State.”

People can check the Christmas opening times of their local CRP by going to the Containers for Change website - www.containersforchange.com.au/qld

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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 Containers for Change scheme.