



January 12, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE SCHEME BACK IN FULL OPERATION AFTER BRISBANE LOCKDOWN

The Containers for Change scheme is back at full operational capacity in the Greater Brisbane area after the three-day COVID lockdown, as the network continues to break state-wide recycling records.

Despite weekend restrictions, the scheme had recorded its biggest week of container returns across Queensland since the network began accepting eligible containers in November 2018.

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

“Last week 37.1 million containers were exchanged for refund across Queensland, a mark 200,000 more than the previous record that was set almost 12 months ago,” Mr Noye said.

“We had a great weekend of collections across the state despite our operators having to deal with the restrictions in the Greater Brisbane area.

“This is a naturally busy period time of year for the network and every 10 cents counts for people after Christmas, so they need access to CRPs to be able to return containers.

“Our depots in Greater Brisbane are now open to accept containers, with customers able to use bag drops if they wish to limit personal contact.”

Operators will continue to ensure workplace hygiene measures are in place at their sites following the latest health authority advice, including wearing of masks, the maintaining of social distancing and the use of hand sanitiser.

Many depot-style refund points in the network continue to have ‘bag drop’ facilities, where a customer can deposit bags of eligible containers in a bin, cage or ‘pod’ to be counted later.

Customers label each bag with their unique scheme ID so that when the containers are counted their refund is transferred directly into their account via EFT.



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EXCHANGE

“If you need to visit a CRP, particularly during busy periods, wear a mask, practice social distancing, hand hygiene and follow all operator advice,” said Mr Noye.

“The scheme has a goal to collect 85 per cent of all beverage containers sold by July 2022, and this is a target all Queenslanders need to get behind.”

Customers who wish to drop off containers should consult www.containersforchange.com/qld to check for any change in opening hours at their local CRP.

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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.