



May 8, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

**FOUR BILLIONTH CONTAINER RECYCLED IN QLD AS
CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE SCHEME EXPANDS**

Queenslanders have now claimed more than \$400 million in refunds through the Containers for Change scheme as access to recycling in the state continues to expand.

A new Container Refund Point (CRP) was opened by Meaghan Scanlon, Queensland Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs together with Member for Greenslopes Joe Kelly in the inner-Brisbane suburb today.

Ms Scanlon said the opening of Community Co Recycling on Morley St, Coorparoo, comes the week after the four billionth container was returned through the container refund scheme.

The Containers for Change scheme has exchanged 10 cents for every eligible container returned at registered refund points across Queensland since commencement in November 2018.

“The Palaszczuk Government is investing close to \$1 billion this year to protect the environment and create jobs – and this is just another example of how government and industry are working together to create opportunities that benefit our environment and our community,” Ms Scanlon said.

“This latest facility just proves how much Queenslanders have rallied behind this initiative for the benefit of our environment, for jobs and for community groups right across the state.”

Mr Kelly said not only would the new facility encourage recycling, it would also provide new opportunities for employment in the local area – with two members from local community group Stepping Stone tapped on the shoulder to work at the depot.

“Thanks to Stepping Stones, Container Exchange and the Palaszczuk Government we’re able to give people in our community meaningful employment while also getting right behind the recycling movement,” Mr Kelly said.

“It’s also great news for local charities and community groups who have now received in excess of \$4 million in funds from Queenslanders through the donation of containers.”

Ken Noye is the Chief Executive Officer of Containers Exchange, the not-for-profit organisation that administers the Containers for Change scheme.

He said the scheme had produced some outstanding results and will continue to expand across Queensland.

“The role of Containers for Change is to increase recycling rates and reduce beverage container litter so it is very encouraging to reach a milestone of four billion containers returned,” said Mr Noye.

“We are equally as proud that charities and community groups have been able to raise \$4 million in valuable funds through the scheme.



“Together, we are making a positive impact to the environment and to local communities, but there is more work to do.

“We will continue to expand the network to give Queenslanders the opportunity to return eligible containers for a refund.

“In the last two weeks alone we have launched new refund points here in Coorparoo, North Mackay, and at Springfield Central.

“With approximately 1 billion containers still ending up in landfill or the environment, that equates to more than \$100 million in refunds still available to the community, charities, and businesses.”

Just one of the thousands of charities and community groups that raise funds through the scheme, Stepping Stone, attended the launch in Coorparoo today.

Stepping Stone will return their donated containers to the new Coorparoo refund point, gaining important funds to assist people facing the impacts of mental health to find employment, education, safe and affordable housing, social recreation and access to the services and supports they need.

“Stepping Stone is open every day to support many members of the community and a lot of those members are passionate about doing their bit for the environment,” said Lucy Maloney, a mental health worker with Stepping Stone.

“We are so excited to have access to the Containers for Change scheme in our very own suburb, and glad to be able bring more awareness and knowledge about recycling.”

For more information on Containers for Change, visit www.containersforchange.com.au/qld

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

Trad McLean, Public Relations Advisor

Container Exchange

m | 0412 809106

e | trad.mclean@containerexchange.com.au

w | containerexchange.com.au

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.