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MEDIA RELEASE

TWO SUNNY COAST BUSINESSES SHORTLISTED FOR STATE-WIDE RECYCLING AWARDS

Two local Sunshine Coast businesses have been shortlisted for state-wide recycling awards in the Containers for Change scheme.

The Bottle Community at Warana and Change Exchange, which has depots at Beerwah and Cooloom, are finalists in the 2021 Change Maker Awards that will be held on 15 October.

Both businesses run refund points in the scheme that reduces beverage container litter across Queensland by offering a 10-cent refund for the return of eligible containers.

The Containers for Change scheme operates more than 310 different refund points across the state.

Local operator Change Exchange is a finalist in the Awards Innovation category for small to medium businesses across Queensland.

They have been nominated for their focus on innovation in several areas of their business, including developing specialised bin infrastructure which assists community groups that collect drink containers to raise funds at outdoor events.

The bins are provided with inbuilt locks to limit theft and have rubber stoppers around the bin entrance to minimise water incursion when exposed to weather.

The Bottle Community is one of the finalists in the People's Choice Award.

They have been nominated and voted for by their customers as one of the four most popular container refund points in Queensland for the customer-focussed recycling operation they run out of premises on Technology Drive in Warana.

The third annual Change Maker Awards will be held at a ceremony at Brisbane's Pullman Hotel on 15 October that will be compered by Channel 7 personality Shane Webcke.

The Change Maker Awards offer the opportunity to shine a light on the incredible individuals and organisations creating real change through the Containers for Change scheme.

The Containers for Change scheme has now facilitated the return of more than 4.5 billion containers since the scheme was established in November 2018, contributing to a 54 per cent decrease in beverage container litter in the Queensland environment.

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

He said recognising the efforts of operators for their achievements in helping clean up Queensland was important.



“Recycling is a job for every person and our operators play an important part in making the ability to recycle containers for a 10-cent refund available to everyday Queenslanders,” he said.

“We hold these awards because so many people within our network are working to ensure beverage container litter is being reduced and recycling rates are increasing, and we want to honour them for their efforts.

“I congratulate both The Bottle Community at Warana and Change Exchange for being shortlisted in their categories.”

Fourteen different Change Maker Awards will be presented across nine different categories for both small to medium and large businesses that operate in the Containers for Change scheme across the State.

New awards this year includes the Charity or Community Group of the Year and the Young Change Maker of the Year.

The Chairman’s Award will also be presented on the night to an individual for their special efforts within the scheme, while the prestigious Change Maker of the Year is the final award of the night.

A live stream of the awards can be viewed on the [Containers for Change Youtube channel](#) or at www.containerexchange.com.au/change-makers.

For more information on Containers for Change, visit 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.