



October 11, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

**SAFETY FIRST FOR LOCAL RECYCLING BUSINESS IN
STATE-WIDE AWARD NOMINATION**

A local recycling operator based in Bundaberg and Gladstone has been nominated for a Queensland award for their commitment to improving the safety of its most valuable asset – their workforce.

CQ Recycling is a registered refund point in the Containers for Change scheme, and has been accepting eligible beverage containers in exchange for a 10-cent refund since 2018.

CQ Recycling has been named as a finalist in the annual Change Maker Awards in the category of *Safety for small to medium businesses*.

The awards ceremony will be compered by Channel 7 personality Shane Webcke at Brisbane's Pullman Hotel on 15 October.

The Containers for Change scheme operates more than 320 refund points across Queensland, with CQ Recycling named as one of just four finalists in the small to medium business safety category.

CQ Recycling operator Kevin Vickers has an employment history in underground mining and working on gas field projects.

He said those experiences had underlined how important safety in the workplace was.

“People in the workplace are like family so we want to make sure that everyone goes home safely each day,” said Mr Vickers.

“We want to provide a happy place to work - and if people are safe at work, they are happy.

“It is one of the keys to running a sustainable business.”

The Containers for Change scheme has exchanged 4.5 billion beverage containers for refund across Queensland since it was established in late 2018.

Safety is at the top of the priority list for the scheme said Ken Noye, the chief executive of Container Exchange, the not-for-profit organisation that administers the scheme.

“The Containers for Change scheme has a huge focus on workplace health and safety, so just to be nominated in this category is a significant achievement for CQ Recycling,” said Mr Noye.



Now in its third year, the Change Maker Awards highlight the amazing contributions of some of the operators, individuals and community groups that work with the scheme each year.

Fourteen different Change Maker Awards will be presented at next week's ceremony, with categories including safety, sustainability, customer focus, innovation and community engagement.

The Change Maker of the Year is one of the major honours of the evening, alongside the Chairman's Award.

For the first time a category aimed at those aged under 18 has been established, with the inaugural Young Change Maker of the Year award to be announced next Friday.

Several community organisations have also been shortlisted for the Charity or Community Group of the Year award.

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.