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MEDIA RELEASE

**COOKTOWN LOCALS' SERVICE TO CAPE COMMUNITIES
EARNS SHORTLIST FOR QLD SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**

The passion to grow and expand their recycling business has earned Cooktown locals Kenny and Steffi Reid a Queensland-wide award nomination for sustainability.

Their company Auswaste began operating in the Containers for Change scheme in Cooktown back in 2019 and has now become a vital cog in providing access to recycling right across the Cape.

The Containers for Change scheme exchanges a 10-cent refund for every eligible beverage container returned to a registered point across Queensland.

The people in communities like Aurukun, Bamaga, Lockhart River, Mapoon and Weipa – to name just a few places where Auswaste supply access to recycling – are now able to collect these 10 cent refunds and ensure they are helping to clean up their local environment.

These impressive efforts have earned Auswaste a Change Maker Award nomination in the category of *sustainability for small to medium businesses*.

The awards will be handed out at a ceremony in Brisbane on October 15.

The move by Auswaste to expand into these areas has not only established an important service to the communities of the Cape but has helped future proof the business.

“Sustainability of small business in the Cape is a challenge,” said Kenny Reid.

“The Containers for Change scheme has given not only the opportunity to develop and deliver a service in remote areas and communities, but also inspired Auswaste to build other businesses around logistics and recycling.

“This has seen us grow from employing 12 staff when we started in the scheme in 2019 to employing 30-plus local people spread over five different businesses.

“This has allowed us to offer full-time employment in a seasonal environment.”

The Containers for Change scheme has now returned more than \$450 million in 10-cent refunds to Queenslanders since it was established in November 2018.

It has contributed to a 54% decrease in beverage container litter in the state’s natural environment.



The work of just some of the people who have helped achieve these statistics will be honoured at the third annual Change Maker Awards.

Major awards such as the Change Maker of the Year, the Charity or Community Group of the Year, and the Young Change Maker of the Year – for people under the age of 18 years – will be presented on the night.

Businesses will be recognised for their efforts in categories including Customer Focus, Community Engagement, Safety and Innovation, as well as Sustainability.

The awards ceremony will be compared by Channel 7 personality Shane Webcke and staged at Brisbane's Pullman Hotel.

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.