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MEDIA RELEASE

NORTH QLD BUSINESS WINS TOP SAFETY HONOUR AT THE CHANGE MAKER AWARDS

A North Queensland-based recycling business was presented the highest safety honour at the Containers for Change Queensland Award ceremony in Brisbane on Friday night.

MAMS Ingham won the safety category for small to medium businesses at the annual Change Maker Awards, chosen from the Containers for Change operators which includes more than 320 container refund points across the state.

MAMS Ingham accepts eligible beverage containers for a 10-cent refund as part of the Containers for Change scheme in Queensland.

It was a razor-sharp focus on all safety matters that won the award for the business in one of the most keenly contested categories of the Change Maker Awards.

Fiona Alexander from MAMS Ingham said the attention to safety was important because of two main groups – its staff and its customers.

“Safety is really important to our group because we value not only our employees, but all the customers that come to our site,” said Mrs Alexander.

“It is important to us that people can come in with their kids to see what they are doing and why recycling is important, and to do it safely.

“Our staff are the people who drive this.

“We can design and write the procedures, but unless they do it and believe in it, it isn’t going to happen.

“We work really hard with our staff in meetings and safety workshops so they know this is what we need to do – and I am really proud of the way they have all got on board with it.”

The Containers for Change scheme has collected more than 4.5 billion containers across Queensland since it began less than three years ago.

The North Queensland region has returned more than 550 million containers in that time.

Mrs Alexander said the people of North Queensland had demonstrated how important recycling was to them because of their attachment to the natural environment.

“In North Queensland the Containers for Change scheme has been embraced from day one,” she said.

“We have been in the scheme from the beginning because we believed in it and that is why we invested a lot of capital.



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“From the start we had people queueing down the road to return beverage containers and that was encouraging. North Queenslanders love the scheme and they have a real culture around recycling.”

The Change Maker Awards ceremony handed out 14 honours across nine categories including safety, sustainability, innovation, community engagement and customer focus.

The presentations can be viewed via video playback on the [Containers for Change Youtube channel](#).

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.