

Victoria's container deposit scheme

Designed for all Victorians



Victoria's container deposit scheme (CDS) will:

- 🔄 increase recycling and reduce litter by up to half
- 🔄 be convenient and accessible with many types and locations of collection points
- 🔄 bring new jobs and economic opportunities for disadvantaged people, charity and community groups, and regional Victoria.

It's a new and accessible way for charities and community groups to raise money:

- collecting containers for refunds
- running container collection drives
- receiving donations – people will be able to donate their refunds to their favourite registered group
- running a refund collection point.



Purchase drinks

Recycling cost is included in the price.



Return empty containers

to a variety of locations across Victoria, including shops, reverse vending machines, depots, pop-ups and drop-off points. Run by recyclers, small business and charity, community and sports groups.



Container refunds

Ten-cent refund per container to person who returns it and/or charity, community and sports groups.



Recycle containers

reducing the need for new materials.

How it will work

Like all Australian container deposit schemes, beverage suppliers will fund the Victorian CDS.

To ensure an efficient, low-cost scheme and one that maximises container returns and recycling Victoria's CDS will adopt a split responsibility governance model with beverage industry having a strong role in administration and funding of the scheme.

The Victorian CDS will create new economic opportunities and jobs, with the responsibilities for running the scheme split between a scheme coordinator and network operators, appointed using a competitive tender process.

Coordinator role:

- manage finances and commercial viability
- audits to prevent fraud
- pay refund amounts and collection network costs to network operator/s
- report against government performance targets.

Network operator/s role:

- establish and maintain a network of refund points
- distribute refund amounts to consumers
- distribute payments to collection point operators
- report on participation and redemption rates.

Why are we doing it this way?

Our scheme adopts key elements from other schemes to maximise return of drink containers for recycling. By sharing responsibility for its operation, the scheme will have checks and balances so it is clear and accountable and ensure collection points are convenient and accessible, which is crucial for an effective CDS.

We meet regularly with our Community Organisations Reference Group, made up representatives from charity and community groups, to make sure the way we set up our CDS means they can take part and benefit.

A comparison of container deposit schemes in Australian states*

All schemes across Australia offer a 10-cent refund for drink containers 150ml to 3 litres in volume. They exclude drink containers generally consumed at home. South Australia also accepts some containers under 150ml.

Data as at March 2021

State and start date of CDS	Average price increase per container in the first 12 months of the scheme	Containers returned	Number and types of places to return containers	Return points run by charity, community and sports groups
South Australia 1977	<i>Not comparable</i>	77% <i>(2019-20 return rate)</i>	126 (1 per 14,040 people): 100% waste management depots	15
New South Wales Dec 2017	7.7c	68% <i>(2020 calendar year return rate)</i>	630 (1 per 12,959 people): 49% reverse vending machines 43% over the counter at shops 4% depots 4% Donation stations	145
Queensland Nov 2018	9.9c	60% <i>(2019-20 return rate)</i>	307 (1 per 16,835 people): 43% Depots 39% Bag drop offs 22% Pop-up points 5% Reverse vending machines	19
Western Australia Oct 2020	<i>Not available</i>	<i>Not applicable</i>	214 (1 per 12,439 people): 43% Depots 30% Bag drop offs 25% Pop-up points 2% Reverse vending machines	78
Tasmania Starting 2022				
Victoria Starting 2023				

How the CDS works for beverage companies

In all cases the beverage suppliers pay for the cost of the scheme in arrears, except for NSW where the beverage suppliers pay in advance.

In Western Australia and Queensland, governments have provided beverage suppliers with loans to cover the significant start-up costs of the scheme.

The Victorian Government will provide a loan to beverage suppliers for the start-up costs.

Average cost to industry (cents per container)

Note: South Australia not available.



New South Wales



Queensland



Western Australia

Who runs (or will run) the container deposit schemes in Australia?

Structure	Who runs (or will run) it?
Scheme coordinator and network operator/s.	<p>New South Wales - scheme coordinator, Exchange for Change (established by Asahi, Coca Cola Amatil, Coopers, CUB, Lion) and network operator TOMRA Cleanaway, appointed via competitive open market process.</p> <p>Tasmania - TBA, appointed via competitive open market process.</p> <p>Victoria - TBA, appointed via competitive open market process.</p> <p>Australian Capital Territory - scheme coordinator, Exchange for Change (established by Asahi, Coca Cola Amatil, Coopers, CUB, Lion) and network operator, Return-It (recycler owned by Re.Group) appointed by competitive open market process.</p>
A single coordinator	<p>Queensland - COEX (established by Coca Cola Amatil and Lion) appointed by government without a market process.</p> <p>Western Australia - WARRRL (established by Coca Cola Amatil and Lion) appointed via competitive open market process.</p>
Multiple coordinators	<p>South Australia - three super collectors, including Statewide (owned by Coca Cola Amatil) and Marine Stores (owned by Coopers and Lion), operating since 1977.</p> <p>Northern Territory - scheme commenced in 2012 and has four coordinators, Statewide (owned by Coca Cola Amatil), Marine Stores (owned by Coopers and Lion), Envirobank (recycler) and NT Coordinators (recycler).</p>