



**BOOMERANG
ALLIANCE**

LET'S ENHANCE AND EXPAND THE **CONTAINER REFUND** SCHEMES

Beverage container refund schemes (CRS) are now a feature of almost all Australian jurisdictions, effectively delivering litter reduction and fostering a circular economy. Nevertheless, despite the national average recovery rate of 65%, billions of beverage containers, not to mention other recyclable containers, still end up in the waste stream.

Australia can and must do better.

Greater recovery, sorting, and reprocessing efforts will result in the creation of numerous job opportunities and increased funding for charities and individuals seeking additional income.¹

The Boomerang Alliance is calling for the following solutions:

1. Include glass wine and spirits containers and investigate other recyclable containers suitable for the refund point infrastructure rolled out nationwide.

2. The refund (the prime motivator) should keep pace with inflation, otherwise returns will decline. This will lead to a loss of environmental and resource recovery benefits, but also reduce the profitability of depots, many of which are run by charity groups.

Governments should set a pathway to implement a 20-cent refund within a few short years. This initiative is poised to garner widespread approval from numerous individuals and community groups actively involved in the CRS, while also encouraging greater participation. Economic research indicates that consumption will not decrease, thus mitigating any potential negative economic effects.²

3. Governments should set and achieve recovery targets of 80% or more.³

As Australia becomes the first continent to be fully covered by CRS and our schemes have or are reaching maturity – it's essential to take the next steps to continue the journey to a circular economy.

Help us expand and enhance the Container Refund Scheme by contacting your Environment Minister!

NSW - Hon. Penny Sharpe MP: office@sharpe.minister.nsw.gov.au
VIC - Hon. Steve Dimopoulos MP: reception.dimopoulos@ecodev.vic.gov.au
QLD - Hon. Leanne Linard MP: environment@ministerial.qld.gov.au
SA - Hon. Susan Close: OfficeoftheDeputyPremier@sa.gov.au
WA - Hon. Reece Whitby: Minister.Whitby@dpc.wa.gov.au
ACT - Hon. Rebecca Vassarotti MP: vassarotti@act.gov.au
NT - Hon. Kate Worden MP: Minister.Worden@nt.gov.au
TAS - Hon Nick Duigan: minister.duigan@dpac.tas.gov.au
C'W - Hon Tanya Plibersek: Minister.Plibersek@dcceew.gov.au

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www.boomerangalliance.org.au

¹ Hudson, Howells (2023), The Economic Impact of Raising the Container Refund to 20c

² NZ Container Return Scheme CRS Final Design, 27 October 2020, p. 332

The impact of deposit return systems on beverage sales, Reloop, July 2023, p.16

³ Australia's national recycling target is 80%. Qld and WA have a CRS 85% target, yet to be achieved. Other states have none.