



MEDIA RELEASE

VICTORIAN CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME WELCOMED AND SHOULD SUPPORT THE RECYCLING SECTOR NOT DRINKS COMPANIES

The Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR), today welcomed the Victorian government decision to introduce a 10 cent refund on recycled drink containers, urging the government to design a scheme with both consumer convenience and the recycling sector at its core.

“A container refund scheme for Victoria is a great result and as part of a package will really help the recycling sector as well as the environment in the state,” said Robert Kelman, ACOR Container Deposit Division Coordinator.

“In a report released last year, it is estimated an additional \$26 million and 100,000 tonnes of additional packaging value and material per annum for high end reprocessing will be generated from a Victorian CRS.*

“It’s now essential the government designs a scheme that benefits the community and the recycling sector and doesn’t simply favour large drinks companies. This means objective rules, transparency and accountability of scheme operations and optimal consumer access,” said Kelman.

“The government should also look at expanding the scheme to include wine and spirit bottles as well as deposits for additional problematic consumer recyclables such as batteries and mobile phones,” said Kelman.

“Drinks producers will favour designing a scheme with low recycling rates as they don’t have to refund the deposit the consumer has paid or pay for the collection and recycling of this material. This obvious conflict of interest must be avoided in Victoria.

“The recycling sector should be at the centre of managing the Victorian CRS. The sector will

then make the necessary infrastructure investments in this and other recycling schemes as they have over many decades,” said Kelman.

“From litter reduction and helping meet Victoria’s plastic pollution reduction goals, to helping solve the challenges of the China Sword policy and adding to the states reprocessing industry, a CRS is an essential recycling industry reform for Victoria.

“ACOR and its members look forward to supporting the government design a world’s best practice scheme and investing the hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure to make it happen,” said Kelman

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3 FEBRUARY 2020

* The report from Marsden Jacob and Associates (available upon request) details the increased value of recycled material coming out of a CDS in Victoria. Unlike kerbside recovered material CDS material is free of contamination and pre-sorted so of higher value than for example the mixed plastics previously sent to China.