



MEDIA RELEASE

VICTORIAN CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME WELCOMED BY ACOR

The Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR) today welcomed the Victorian Government's introduction of a container refund scheme offering a 10cent refund on recycled drink containers, that will support consumers and maximise recycling rates.

The new Victorian scheme set to start in 2023, will split responsibilities between a scheme coordinator partner and network operator partners, in a similar structure to New South Wales, Tasmania and the ACT.

Sustainability Victoria estimates that 2.9 billion beverage containers are consumed in Victoria each year, with consumption increasing by about 1per cent per year.

"As the last Australian jurisdiction to announce the introduction of a container refund scheme, it is anticipated that this scheme will make a big recycling impact. These schemes are proven wins for the environment, community and business", said Cameron O'Reilly, Interim CEO of the Australian Council of Recycling.

"The government's model of tendering for collection network operators is appropriate and offers the opportunity for Victorian consumers to be supported and encouraged to recycle with a convenient network of refund points", said O'Reilly.

"It is especially encouraging that this model will allow for multiple return arrangements including retail locations, bulk returns as well as refund and donation points run by community groups, charities and sporting clubs.

"This is the final important piece of Australia's container refund scheme puzzle, and ACOR and its members look forward to supporting the government in implementing this scheme to support Victorian consumers and maximise recycling rates," said O'Reilly.

Container refund schemes operate in 40 plus jurisdictions around the world including in Australia, where they are operated by state and territory governments. All Australian jurisdictions now have a container deposit scheme in place or have committed to introducing one.

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