



Nigel
DALTON MP
MEMBER FOR MACKAY



17 March 2025

Robert Molhoek MP
Health, Environment and Innovation Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the **Containers for Change** scheme as it operates in the **Mackay Electorate**. Below is a summary of how the scheme is working and where there are challenges in our region.

How the Scheme is Working in Mackay:

- The scheme has been **well-received by the community**, with many residents and local groups actively participating in container recycling.
- Schools, charities, and community organisations have **benefited from fundraising opportunities** through container collection.
- The **refund point at Paget** is functioning effectively and is widely used by the public.
- Local businesses have generally supported the scheme and integrated it into their sustainability practices.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement:

- **Limited refund points:** Many residents in surrounding areas, particularly in **rural and regional parts of the electorate**, find it difficult to access refund points due to the **distance and lack of facilities**. More collection points in suburbs and small towns would improve accessibility.
- **Operational inefficiencies:** Some residents report **long wait times at refund sites**, particularly during peak periods. There have also been concerns about **machine breakdowns** at some locations, leading to delays.
- **CoEx processing and transparency:** There is limited public understanding of what happens to **recycled materials** after collection. More transparency on **where and how containers are processed** would build trust in the system.

- **Business participation barriers:** Some small businesses have raised concerns about **logistics and costs** related to returning eligible containers, suggesting that **business-focused solutions** could improve participation.

Key Recommendations:

1. **Increase the number of refund points** in outer suburbs and regional areas to improve access.
2. Improve **processing efficiency and machine reliability** to reduce wait times.
3. Provide **greater transparency** on the end-to-end recycling process to ensure community confidence.
4. Explore **better incentives or support** for small businesses to participate.

Thank you for considering this feedback from the Mackay Electorate. We appreciate the committee's efforts to improve the **Containers for Change** scheme and look forward to any developments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nigel Dalton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nigel Dalton MP
Member of Mackay