

## **Inquiry - Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme**

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| <b>Submission No:</b>      | 35   |
| <b>Submitted by:</b>       | Rotary Club of Kenmore Inc                 |
| <b>Publication:</b>        | Making the submission and your name public |
| <b>Attachments:</b>        | See attachment                             |
| <b>Submitter Comments:</b> |  |

## **Submission to Qld Parliamentary Committee into improving Queensland's Container Scheme Refund**

The Rotary Club of Kenmore Inc (**KRC**) registered for a Container ID when the Scheme initially commenced. Our intention in doing so was that our involvement with the Scheme would be one of our Community Projects intended to reduce landfill or litter in our Club area and by redeeming 10cents for every eligible container would provide income to be used by the Club for the local community including assisting with making youth in schools in our area and /or involved in our projects aware of how they or their parents may assist their schools by redeeming containers and what is involved with them obtaining the necessary scheme ID if they wish to participate in the Scheme.

Initially the Club had 2 cages manufactured which were placed at E-waste in Kenmore Hills and Pullenvale Marketplace in Pullenvale as donation points where members and the public that wished to donate their containers to KRC could deposit them.



Photo of original cage and containers at E-waste

A member of KRC at that time [REDACTED] arranged collections from these 2 points and looked for other sites and commenced negotiations with a representative from ReturnIt about possibly collecting from a site or sites in the area instead of our members taking containers to depots outside the area. At the time of commencement there was no depot in the Western Suburbs. The closest depots to Kenmore we ascertained were Tomra (Seventeen Mile Rocks) and Newmarket (ReturnIt).

Our local State MP Dr Christian Rowan arranged for KRC to apply for a Department of Environment Grant which we were successful in obtaining and enabled us to purchase a trailer, purple bins and arrange for some advertising signs to promote our involvement in the scheme sign and expand our sites for donation points to include:

- Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church Kenmore;
- St Catherine's Church Moggill;
- Anglican Church Kenmore; and
- a member's house in [REDACTED].



Photo of some of bins at OLR Church and original signage





Photo of trailer purchased by KRC with grant money and used by our members to pick up from donation points fortnightly and take to scheme operators premises as bag drops.

When the scheme started and even today currently in the area there are no depots of Coex contractors in the State electorates of Mawar and Moggill. We do not know why this is the case but Ken being a retired town planner and Michael a retired lawyer believe land with suitable zoning for a depot may not be available for Coex or one of their contractors to purchase or lease in the area. This means that apart from bag drops there are Reverse Vending Machines in Moggill Shopping Centre car park and Indooroopilly Centre and according to the Coex website Circulis will be installing Reverse Vending Machines in the 2 Kenmore Shopping Centres.

[REDACTED] management of the program for KRC was taken over by

**Michael Fitzgerald** [REDACTED]

**Ken Ryan** [REDACTED]

Ken and Michael fulfilled the grant from the Environment Department during the closure and recommenced collections in June 2020.





In 2024 we arranged for the Coex Regional Manager Brisbane and Partnerships Lead Charity and Community Groups to undertake a tour of all our sites in March 2024 and they prepared an action list but despite follow up we never received:

- new signage for the pods that reflected wine and spirit bottles were now acceptable;
- because we indicated we had spoke with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] during Covid after a contractor they had been using withdrew from Scheme and we introduced him to Community Co and they had several meetings with him or staff the [REDACTED] asked to meet with them and we were told from both sides that the school wouldn't do anything if students didn't pick it up and run with it. Nothing had happened and as our involvement was to introduce the parties so containers could be recycled we weren't seeking to take any cash away from school and we haven't followed up. As the Regional Manager suggested they could arrange for their School Lead to visit we provided contact names but never heard if this occurred.
- Kenmore State School – through KRC's involvement with a program called Solar Buddy Ken and Michael were introduced to [REDACTED] and because we believe they obtained an ID and participate in the scheme we suggested to the Regional Manager he have the Coex school Lead contact her direct as again Rotary are seeing this as an opportunity for school to raise funds.
- Chapel Hill State School is a school we undertake Rotary Junior Community awards with every year and Ken did speak with [REDACTED] Deputy Principal. The principal is [REDACTED] who knows Kenmore Rotary well and we provided his contact details so Coex could contact directly, we do not know if this occurred.
- We were asked by a member of the P&C at Brookfield State School who had obtained a scheme ID for school to give her guidance in what she needed to become operational, and we put her on to locations where we purchased bins etc. early on and subsequently introduced her to Community Co who used to go to school after collecting from Ewaste. We indicated to the Regional Manager we understood they are part of the Coex Wave for Change .
- Adjacent to our Moggill Pod Tomra installed at the Moggill Shopping Centre a Reverse Vending Machine which competes with our bag drop. WE asked the Regional Manager during his visit of our sites would 2 sites be so close and we were told not usually. It was suggested Coex would ask Tomra if we could be their charity for that site but we never heard anymore about that from Coex.





Since commencing our collections and up till 4 September 2024 KRC has save 537,085 containers from going to landfill in our area and along with its partners received \$153,708.50. In financial year 2023-2024 KRC was advised by Coex we had collected during that financial year 117,487 containers broken down as follows:

| Row Labels  | Sum of QUANTITY |              |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 2023        | 46756           | \$ 4,675.60  |
| Qtr3        | 22988           | \$ 2,298.80  |
| Qtr4        | 23768           | \$ 2,376.80  |
| 2024        | 70731           | \$ 7,073.10  |
| Qtr1        | 34589           | \$ 3,458.90  |
| Qtr2        | 36142           | \$ 3,614.20  |
| Grand Total | 117487          | \$ 11,748.70 |

| Row Labels | Sum of QUANTITY |
|------------|-----------------|
| 2023       | 46756           |
| Jul        | 8270            |
| Aug        | 6748            |
| Sep        | 7970            |
| Oct        | 6591            |
| Nov        | 9802            |
| Dec        | 7375            |
| 2024       | 70731           |
| Jan        | 14417           |
| Feb        | 8492            |
| Mar        | 11680           |
| Apr        | 12797           |
| May        | 12755           |



|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Jun</b>             | <b>10590</b>  |
| <b>Grand<br/>Total</b> | <b>117487</b> |

Since the Coex visit in 2024 we have 2 Container IDs The original [REDACTED] (which since the 2024 Coex visit we only use for our partnerships with Our Lady of the Rosary Kenmore and Moggill and Ewaste) has collected 564,331 containers and [REDACTED] which collected 45,581 containers.

We have recently been informed by [REDACTED] that they have after discussions with Coex indicated that it is not viable for them to continue to operate bag drops at our Kenmore and Moggill pods. While we are unaware of the number of people apart from KRC who may have used these bag drops we know that between 10 July 2024 and 28 February from information provided to us by Coex we recycled at these locations container numbers as follows:

Kenmore – 10,463; and

Moggill - 11,317.

[REDACTED]. We will endeavour to explore with Coex with support and assistance from [REDACTED] how we can continue to collect large numbers of containers in our area and share receipts with partners while recognizing that it is likely some members of the public who don't want to stand and use a reverse vending machine for a couple of hundred containers may be forced to visit depots a long way from home.