

## Inquiry - Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme

**Submission No:** 52  
**Submitted by:** Five Barrel Brewing  
**Publication:** Making the submission and your name public  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say in this Inquiry. We are a small, independent brewery that sells into Queensland and is registered with COEX. The Container Refund Scheme places a significant financial and administrative burden on small producers like us. While we support the environmental goals of the Scheme, the current structure excessively affects independent brewers.

For our business, the direct costs of participation—including container registration, reporting, and scheme contributions—represent a material and growing expense. Every dollar and hour counts in a small business, and the way the scheme is structured at the moment really adds up, especially as we sell into multiple states. Any proposal to increase the refund rate to 15 or 20 cents will hit hard. It would either force us to raise prices—which makes our beer less competitive—or absorb the cost, which just isn't sustainable. It might even mean we have to stop selling into Queensland altogether.

The independent brewing industry contributes to jobs, tourism, manufacturing, and local economies across Queensland and Australia. Any changes to the CRS that increase the cost of doing business will ultimately reduce consumer choice and undermine these broader economic contributions. We fully support the recommendations made in the submission by the Independent Brewers Association. In particular, we endorse the call for:

- A rebate or exemption for small producers to alleviate the cost and administrative burden of scheme participation;
- Greater transparency and education around how the Scheme operates and how costs are distributed;
- A whole-of-government approach in the next iteration of the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy to ensure our industry's long-term sustainability.

If the Government is serious about supporting both sustainability and small business, it must consider the unintended consequences of increasing the refund rate, and work with industry on more balanced, effective reforms. Cheers for taking the time to consider our perspective.