

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

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<b>Submitted by:</b>	Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network
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**GRANITE BELT**  
Sustainable Action Network

**Submission**

2/4/2025

**Inquiry into improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme**

To Whom it May Concern,

The Granite Belt Sustainable Action network is making this submission to support the increase of container refund rates from 10c to 20c per eligible container in Queensland.

Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network (GBSAN) is a grassroots organisation which works within our local community and with the Southern Downs Regional Council to improve environmental outcomes on a range of measures. One aspect of our work is to seek to improve rates of recycling as well as the range of recyclable items for our community. We have previously made a submission to the Queensland Parliament to support the inclusion of wine and spirit bottles into the Containers For Change bottle refund scheme. Our submission here is a continuation of our commitment to initiate positive change within our community and in Queensland.

We wish to make the following points in support of increasing the refund rate of eligible containers from 10c to 20c:

- Containers For Change has seen a substantial increase in the rates of recycling of containers within Queensland. This is a positive step towards tackling an enormous waste issue in our state.
- This improvement has also alleviated the burden of recycling volume on local councils as recyclable items are diverted from sorting streams at waste facilities, conferring savings to councils and ratepayers.
- Containers for Change has created local jobs and has given countless community organisations, sporting clubs and schools an easy method to fundraise for their valuable activities. GBSAN is one of those organisations which benefits from the Containers for Change scheme.
- In Queensland the return rate of eligible containers is now 67%, however it falls short of the target of 85% of eligible containers being returned. This rate appears to have plateaued at around the 67% level and incentives to increase the return rate should now be sought.

- The Hudson Howell's 2023 report, "An Economic Analysis; The Impacts of Raising the Container Refund to 20c", indicates that increasing the refund rate from 10c to 20c per eligible container would likely result in a 16% increase in the return rate to around 80% of eligible containers.
- In discussion with our local Containers For Change depot no obstacles were identified by them if the refund rate of containers was increased to 20c. They have the capacity to handle an increased volume of containers and could adapt their operations accordingly by hiring more staff or increasing the frequency of truck pick-ups of sorted containers.
- We believe that even more containers could be diverted from our local council's waste facilities by improving the number of strategic collection points within our local community to include dedicated Containers For Change bins at our local parks and wherever existing general waste and recycling bins are located on the main street of Stanthorpe and Warwick.
- We believe that the volume of returned eligible containers could be even greater if this was planned to include all sporting clubs and all district schools.

**In conclusion, GBSAN believes that increasing the return rate from 10c to 20c for eligible containers within Queensland would be an effective tool in reaching state recycling targets and we support this step in the right direction.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Granite Belt Sustainable Action Network.