

Inquiry - Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme

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Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire

Improving Queensland's Container Refund Scheme



Our organisation is based in the Scenic Rim, an hour from Brisbane, and we are passionate about ensuring recyclables make their way to the right place rather than landfill.

Our local region has reasonably good options to return containers for the 10c refunds once they're collected.

However, we believe that there needs to be many more opportunities for communities to drop their containers at the point of finishing their drinks.

This means that there needs to be collection points in shopping centres and food courts, hotels and all public spaces.

A very major flaw in the system relates to the fact that many local governments a number of years ago removed many if not most public place recycling bins to save on costs.

This very short-sighted approach means containers in those scenarios are all going to landfill, as that's the only option unless people are keen to take them away with them and deal with them separately.

COEX provide the free baskets to councils to affix to landfill bins in public places. This seems an excellent way forward, as it means extremely low costs to local councils beyond ordering the baskets and attaching them to the landfill bins.

Our council, the Scenic Rim Regional Council has only 21 public place recycling bins in the whole of our large shire. Trials have been done, and although they have proved successful, they are only at this point looking to have 21 baskets replacing the recycling bins.

These 21 are in our larger three towns, so all other towns have none - no option to recycle, which is appalling in 2025. Council is very keen to be known as an eco tourism destination, however this does not match their approach to good waste management.

None of our public parks have recycling bins or baskets.

Perhaps findings from this review will ensure a more rigorous approach from councils whose responsibilities have always been roads, rates and rubbish.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Kind regards



Julie Jackson
Secretary
Boonah Organisation for a Sustainable Shire

4 April 2025