

Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026

Submission No: 010

Submission By: Reloop Platform

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Submission

Inquiry into the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026

14 April 2026

Reform to QLD Container Refund Scheme – Ministerial oversight of collection network

I recommend to the Committee a single and important additional mechanism, namely that the Minister is required to sign off on any COEX plans for improving the collection network.

COEX, and the governance regime inherent in the QLD scheme are conflicted in terms of the government, communities and environmental objectives accompanying the scheme. COEX and its owners do not want higher return rates, nor to achieve the 85% target as this places additional financial obligations on them.

COEX have repeatedly demonstrated in their approach to the scheme and in particular the collection network their ability to implement mechanisms to avoid getting closer to the target by contracting a less than convenient collection network.


An inadequate collection network especially in Sth East QLD (Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast etc) has plagued the scheme since inception. LNP and other MP's have voiced their frustrations with the lack of adequate access to drop off points in their electorates throughout SEQ.

This is despite the fact COEX have been approached on numerous occasions and by numerous operators to fix these problems and insert additional collection points, but have failed to contract these parties/ adopt additional sites.

Why would we now imagine COEX would substantially correct this and substantially improve the collection network and therefore consumer access to the scheme?

This new legislation should therefore require Ministerial sign off on proposed collection network reforms / strategies/ plans and ensure Queenslanders get the access they expect.

Yours sincerely,



Robert Kelman
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