

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

**Submission No:** 023

**Submission By:** Local Government Association of Queensland

**Publication:**

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Every Queensland  
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15 April 2026

Committee Secretary  
Health, Environment and Innovation Committee  
[heic@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:heic@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee Secretary,

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

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee on the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026* (the Bill) introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 26 March 2026.

Overall, the LGAQ supports the stated intent of the Bill - specifically amendments to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (WRR Act)* to enhance oversight mechanisms and arrangements, improve governance, accountability and increased transparency of the Scheme.

While many aspects of the Bill are supported, the attached submission includes twelve (12) targeted recommendations that focus on provisions of the Bill that have significant relevance and either align with or influence key local government activities including:

- Composition of the board - Local government representation (section 102AG)
- Functions and powers (section 102AK)
  - support for environmental and community programs and social enterprises
  - reducing waste and illegal dumping
  - support the development of infrastructure required to transport and recycle waste in Queensland
- Establish and maintaining a network of container refund points (section 102AL)
- Establish container refund points in a community that does not have reasonable access (section 102BK)
- Material recovery facilities and their eligibility to claim recovery amounts (section 99ZH)

The LGAQ looks forward to working alongside the State Government and industry to progress and expand this important Scheme and the opportunity it presents for local councils and their communities across Queensland.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Crystal Baker, Manager – Strategic Policy via [REDACTED] or Robert Ferguson, Lead – Public Health and Waste Management via [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Alison Smith  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



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Submission to Health, Environment and  
Innovation Committee

April 2026

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## About the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

The Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) is the peak body for local government in Queensland. It is a not-for-profit association established solely to serve councils and their needs. The LGAQ has been advising, supporting, and representing local councils since 1896, enabling them to improve their operations and strengthen relationships with their communities. The LGAQ does this by connecting councils to people and places; supporting their drive to innovate and improve service delivery through smart services and sustainable solutions; and providing them with the means to achieve community, professional and political excellence.

## Equal Partners in Government Agreement

The LGAQ on behalf of all 77 Queensland local governments is a signatory to a three-year Equal Partners in Government Agreement<sup>1</sup> with the State of Queensland (signed 11 March 2025)

The Agreement details the key principles underlying the relationship between the state and local governments and establishes the foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The Agreement acknowledges that local government is the closest level of government to the community, affecting the lives of everyday Queenslanders and acknowledging local government as a genuine partner in the Australian government system.

The intent of the Agreement was to continue the tradition of working in genuine partnership to improve the quality of life for all Queenslanders to enjoy. By identifying the roles and responsibilities of each party, it provides a solid foundation for effective negotiation and engagement between both levels of government.

The LGAQ is committed to working with the Queensland Government and will continue to be a passionate advocate for councils, to serve our joint jurisdiction for the people of Queensland.

## Rural and Remote Councils Compact

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact<sup>2</sup> signed on 14 August 2025, is a sub-agreement to the Equal Partners in Government Agreement, between the LGAQ and the Queensland Government. It provides a platform to ensure issues of priority for these communities are properly considered by the Government when developing policies, programs, and legislation.

The Rural and Remote Councils Compact, pledges to amplify the voice of and improve outcomes for the state's 45 rural and remote councils and their local communities by enhancing engagement between both levels of government.

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<sup>1</sup> The Equal Partners in Government Agreement is available online [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Rural and Remote Councils compact available online [here](#).

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

## 1.0 Executive Summary

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026* (the Bill).

The proposed reforms, particularly the introduction of legislative provisions that clarify the Product Responsibility Organisation (PRO), providing greater transparency, reporting obligations and membership and representation on the Board, represent a significant shift in the oversight and governance arrangements of the scheme.

The LGAQ acknowledges and commends the State Government for its considered and responsive approach to the challenges faced with the delivery of a Queensland-wide scheme and the importance for transparency and accountability required of an effective scheme.

This submission draws on LGAQ's formal policy positions, direct member council feedback, and resolutions passed at recent LGAQ Annual Conferences calling for a range of resource recovery and circular economy approaches required to tackle waste management challenges with particular relevance to a delivering a responsive Container Refund Scheme operating across SEQ, regional, rural and remote areas of Queensland.

While the LGAQ supports many aspects of the Bill, this submission includes eleven (11) targeted recommendations that focus on the activities of councils and recognise that several areas of the Bill have significant relevance and either align or potentially influence key local government activities including:

- Composition of the board - Local government representation (section 102AG)
- Functions and powers (section 102AK)
  - support for environmental and community programs and social enterprises
  - reducing waste and illegal dumping
  - support the development of infrastructure required to transport and recycle waste in Queensland
- Establish and maintaining a network of container refund points (section 102AL)
- Establish container refund points in a community that does not have reasonable access (section 102BK)
- Material recovery facilities and their eligibility to claim recovery amounts (section 99ZH)

In addition to the activities included in the Bill, the *Queensland Government Response – Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme (March 2026)*<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Queensland Government Response – Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme (March 2026) – available online [here](#).

importantly recognises the independence of local government planning and development approvals for container refund points and indicates the State Government considers these discussions are matters for local government and COEX to progress collaboratively.

The LGAQ remains committed to working in partnership with the State Government to continue to progress the expansion of the Container Refund Scheme and improve the integrity, accessibility and recovery rates for an effective scheme that delivers long-term social, economic and environmental outcomes across Queensland.

## 1.1 Recommendations

In total the LGAQ has made twelve recommendations for consideration by the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee. These are summarised below:

**Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Bill be supported and progressed, with consideration given to integrating the recommendations outlined in this submission to strengthen its implementation and long-term objectives and outcomes of an effective scheme operating across Queensland.

**Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government provides clarity on the next steps to progress the outstanding supported recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme (i.e. Recommendations 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 21) that have not been captured in the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026*.

**Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures ongoing viability of the Scheme by regularly reviewing pricing, governance arrangements and recovery rates, including the potential for an increase in the container refund amount to 20 cents to align with its consideration of outstanding recommendations in the next stage of the legislative review.

**Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government engages further with stakeholders, including the LGAQ, in the development of appropriate criteria for the selection and appointment of industry, local government, community and social enterprise representation on the COEX Board.

**Recommendation 5:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government develops an investment plan for the allocation of surplus funds in partnership with local government to maximise community benefit in local communities across Queensland.

**Recommendation 6:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures ongoing and increased accessibility of refund locations and collection options under the Scheme, undertaken in consultation and agreement with Queensland councils and ensuring there are no negative financial impacts on any individual council waste and recycling operations.

**Recommendation 7:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reviews key deliverables of the Scheme and engages further with local government to work collaboratively in boosting data sharing, accessibility of collection return points, regional recovery rates, future planning and implementation of the Scheme.

**Recommendation 8:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures the independence of the local government planning and development approval processes is maintained and that these matters remain the responsibility of local government.

**Recommendation 9:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government assesses options and implements mandated product stewardship schemes (where no national scheme exists) for other problem waste streams and explores pathways for container refund points to facilitate the collection and recycling of soft plastics, batteries and other recyclable items.

**Recommendation 10:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government consults with Queensland councils to better understand the challenges associated with operating viable material recovery facilities (MRF's) and explores opportunities to maintain and expand sustainable resource recovery and recycling activities.

**Recommendation 11:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government:

- considers the outcomes and findings of Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMPs) in undertaking the review of the Queensland Waste Strategy,
- provides adequate funding support for the implementation of actions contained in RWMPs, and
- increases investment in critical waste infrastructure throughout Queensland.

**Recommendation 12:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reviews the objectives, scope and operation of the Scheme, in consultation with Queensland councils and the LGAQ, and its alignment with the broader review of the Queensland Waste Strategy, waste levy and development of a Statewide Waste Infrastructure Roadmap committed to be undertaken in 2026.

Should you have any questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Crystal Baker, Manager – Strategic Policy via [REDACTED] or Robert Ferguson, Lead – Public Health and Waste Management via [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED]

## 2.0 Introduction

The LGAQ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Health, Environment and Innovation Committee on the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026* (the Bill) introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 26 March 2026.

Without these reforms, particularly the governance and oversight of the Container Refund Scheme, membership of the COEX Board, and transparency and accountability of the scheme coordinator were at risk of eroding community support of a scheme that has experienced success with solid recovery rates and the provision of reasonably accessible collection points across Queensland.

The LGAQ supports the stated intent of the Bill - specifically amendments to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (WRR Act)* to enhance oversight mechanisms and arrangements, improve governance, accountability and increased transparency of the Scheme.

While the LGAQ supports the central tenets of the Bill, this submission provides constructive feedback to support the implementation of the Bill, particularly relating to councils and their interface with the scheme through various local government activities, roles and responsibilities.

This submission presents eleven targeted recommendations relating to the delivery of an effective container refund scheme and the location and operation of container refund points across Queensland, while feedback relevant to other associated statutory and non-statutory instruments will be provided directly to the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (the Department). These recommendations are informed by member feedback, and existing policy positions to ensure a fair, effective, and locally responsive planning framework.

### 2.1 LGAQ Policy Statement and Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member-driven advocacy and working with member councils to build stronger local governments and more resilient local communities.

The LGAQ Policy Statement<sup>4</sup> is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland and provides several key policy positions of local government that are relevant to matters raised in this submission. The agreed policy positions of local government, as stated in the LGAQ Policy Statement, are included in **Attachment 1**.

In addition, 35 resolutions have been passed by Queensland councils at recent LGAQ Annual Conferences on matters relating to waste management, resource recovery and the container refund scheme with the most relevant to the Bill, included in **Attachment 2**.

## 3.0 Response to the Bill

In preparing this submission, the LGAQ has considered the LGAQ Policy Statement, previous LGAQ Annual Conference resolutions, and direct feedback from Queensland councils.

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<sup>4</sup> LGAQ Policy Statement 2025 – available online [here](#).

Overall, the LGAQ supports the objectives of the Bill that:

- enhance oversight mechanisms for the Scheme and clarifies the responsibilities of the Product Responsibility Organisation (PRO)
- require an annual audit by an independent auditor
- establish a fixed term for appointment of the PRO and renewal framework
- require that composition of the PRO Board to include expertise in waste and recycling, local government, community and social enterprise capability
- establish that all directors must be appointed by the Minister with fixed term appointments and regular renewal
- expand the functions of the PRO to include supporting environmental or community programmes as well as the development of infrastructure required to recycle or transport waste in Queensland
- adopt legislative safeguards to prevent unfair conduct by the PRO
- require the development of a governance and investment plan which will include the investment and allocation of surplus and retained scheme funds
- require the development of a network of container refund points plan that will detail the plan for expansion of the Scheme's network and ensure that the economic viability of the existing return points is considered
- provide for Scheme pricing to consider the impact on small beverage manufacturers and enable exemptions to provide relief for small beverage manufacturer; and
- allows for eligible container lids to be collected and recycled through the Scheme.

As highlighted above, the Bill champions outcomes in the public interest and illustrates the State Government's commitment to partnering with local government and supporting Queensland communities through greater transparency, accountability and service accessibility of a more effective container refund scheme operating across Queensland.

**Recommendation 1:** The LGAQ recommends the Bill be supported and progressed, with consideration given to integrating the recommendations outlined in this submission to strengthen its implementation and long-term objectives and outcomes of an effective scheme operating across Queensland.

The Committee's [Report](#) tabled to Parliament on 16 October 2025 identified 21 recommendations for consideration. In the *Queensland Government Response – Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme (March 2026)*, the State Government provided support (and in-principle support) to 20 of the 21 recommendations, with most centred on improving transparency, accountability, and governance all of which have been lacking to date and the need for the scheme to be managed with integrity, fairness, and appropriate oversight.

The LGAQ acknowledges that the range of proposed amendments will provide opportunities to achieve significant improvements to the operation of the scheme and greater support for and alignment to a range of local government activities. While the LGAQ supports many aspects of the Bill, this submission includes twelve (12) targeted recommendations that focus on the activities of councils and recognise that several areas of the Bill have significant relevance, influence and/or alignment to key local government activities including:

- Composition of the board - Local government representation (section 102AG)
- Functions and powers (section 102AK)
  - support for environmental and community programs and social enterprises

- reducing waste and illegal dumping
- support the development of infrastructure required to transport and recycle waste in Queensland
- Establish and maintaining a network of container refund points (section 102AL)
- Establish container refund points in a community that does not have reasonable access (section 102BK)
- Material recovery facilities and their eligibility to claim recovery amounts (section 99ZH).

It is acknowledged that through the Bill, the State Government is responding to recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20 of the Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme.

Nine (9) other recommendations (6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 21) have not been addressed through the Bill, however, it is acknowledged that a number of these require additional support and will need to progress outside this process.

The LGAQ looks towards the State Government providing clear direction on the next steps to deliver on these outstanding recommendations and welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with the State Government to progress these matters.

**Recommendation 2:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government provides clarity on the next steps to progress the outstanding supported recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme (i.e. Recommendations 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 21) that have not been captured in the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026*.

The State Government had indicated it is not supportive of Recommendation 11 seeking a review of the pricing formula under the CRS to increase the refund amount per container to 20 cents. A review of the scheme would, however, consider the sustainability of the scheme, its pricing mechanisms, recovery rates across Queensland. This would assist in providing long-term certainty and ensure the future sustainability for businesses, assist in managing increasing costs whilst also continuing to provide recycling options for eligible containers and supporting the scheme in achieving its legislative targets.

With the progression of twelve (12) recommendations incorporated in this Bill, it is acknowledged that the remaining recommendations will require additional consideration prior to any future legislative amendments.

**Recommendation 3:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures ongoing viability of the Scheme by regularly reviewing pricing, governance arrangements and recovery rates, including the potential for an increase in the container refund amount to 20 cents to align with its consideration of outstanding recommendations in the next stage of the legislative review.

### 3.1 Composition of the board - Local government representation

Section 102AG of the Bill, identifies a range of matters and concerns relating to the composition and operation of the COEX Board. Specifically, the Bill proposes to broaden the composition of the Board to provide for expertise in waste and recycling, local government, community and social enterprise capability, alongside small and large beverage manufacturers.

Oversight, governance, accountability and transparency have been raised by a number of stakeholders in relation to the previous operation of the Product Responsibility Organisation (PRO). As such, the LGAQ supports the approach to broaden the composition of the COEX Board to include local government.

Noting that all director appointments to the Board are proposed to be approved by the Minister, it is important that further consultations is undertaken in relation to the criteria established for the selection and appointment of Board members.

**Recommendation 4:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government engages further with stakeholders, including the LGAQ, in the development of appropriate criteria for the selection and appointment of industry, local government, community and social enterprise representation on the COEX Board.

### 3.2 Functions and powers

The Bill, section 102AK, captures a range of expanded functions and powers that broaden the activities of the PRO including:

- support for environmental and community programs and social enterprises
- reducing waste and illegal dumping
- support the development of infrastructure required to transport and recycle waste in Queensland

It is acknowledged there is strong support from the State Government for the allocation of any surplus funds into a range of environmental and community programs and broader initiatives to tackle litter and illegal dumping and transport infrastructure for waste and resource recovery.

It is understood that legislative amendments to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* will provide a pathway for the scheme coordinator to submit a plan for investment of surplus funds to the responsible Minister for approval. Due to the relevance to local councils and their communities, there is an expectation that local government will have the ability to co-design the program to provide a range of strategic initiatives in partnership with the State Government.

**Recommendation 5:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government develops an investment plan for the allocation of surplus funds in partnership with local government to maximise community benefit in local communities across Queensland.

### 3.3 Network of container refund points

As reflected in the Explanatory Notes for the Bill, there is a strong commitment from the State Government to consider the functions and powers of the PRO including its roles and responsibilities. These responsibilities expand to include:

- Establish and maintaining a network of container refund points (section 102AL)
- Establish container refund points in a community that does not have reasonable access (section 102BK)

It is understood the State Government will progress legislative changes to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* to provide for additional performance metrics ensuring there is continued improvement towards the scheme's recovery rates.

This is most relevant in rural and remote local government areas, as it offers opportunities and greater accountability to establish and maintain access to container refund points in these areas.

**Recommendation 6:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures ongoing and increased accessibility of refund locations and collection options under the Scheme, undertaken in consultation and agreement with Queensland councils and ensuring there are no negative financial impacts on any individual council waste and recycling operations.

**Recommendation 7:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reviews key deliverables of the Scheme and engages further with local government to work collaboratively in boosting data sharing, accessibility of collection return points, regional recovery rates, future planning and implementation of the Scheme.

### 3.4 Planning and development approvals

In addition to the activities included in the Bill, the *Queensland Government Response – Parliamentary Inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme (March 2026)* recognises the independence of local government planning and development approvals for container refund points and indicates the State Government considers these discussions as matters for local government and COEX to progress collaboratively.

The State Government has considered opportunities to increase sustainable participation in the container refund scheme, by implementing strategies to:

- Increase scheme participation in corporate and government workplaces, and multi-unit dwellings
- Increase the number of reverse vending machines
- Examine the impact of local government planning processes on scheme expansion

It is understood the State Government will continue to explore opportunities to increase sustainable participation in the container refund scheme. To support this, the Department will lead a cross-agency working group to identify practical measures that can improve access, awareness and long-term engagement within the State Government.

Development approvals are currently required for some container refund points, including reverse vending machines (RVM's) and are generally the responsibility of the relevant local council. It is important that the Government ensures discussions regarding specific RVM locations to be matters for local councils and COEX to progress collaboratively.

**Recommendation 8:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government ensures the independence of the local government planning and development approval processes in relation to container refund points is maintained and that these matters remain the responsibility of local government.

### 3.5 Expansion of Scheme

The LGAQ acknowledges the State Government supports exploring (through a feasibility study), the use of container return points to collect other priority waste streams including batteries, soft plastics and other recyclable items. This would not only provide other avenues for the generation of revenue and improve the viability of collection points but also address outstanding concerns of councils challenged by a range of problematic materials including batteries.

In addition, this acknowledges the important role that container refund points play as a statewide network of accessible collection hubs. This network presents an opportunity to expand collection activities beyond beverage containers to include a broader range of recyclable materials. Enabling the collection of additional material types would not only enhance resource recovery but also provide meaningful diversification opportunities for refund point operators.

The Department has stated it recognises that different waste streams have unique handling requirements and logistical considerations. As such, any future expansion of materials collected through refund points cannot adopt a one-size-fits-all approach. Factors such as safety, contamination risks, storage needs, and transport efficiencies must be considered to ensure that each waste stream is managed in a way that is commercially viable and operationally practical for refund point operators.

To progress this initiative, the LGAQ understands the State Government will initiate discussions between the waste industry and COEX to assess stakeholder interest and determine whether a formal feasibility study is required, or whether location-based opportunities can be pursued directly.

As discussed above, local governments, as the level of government closest to the community, are uniquely positioned to ensure this public interest is recognised and offers outcomes through a mature network of collection points across Queensland.

Further opportunities exist to explore the ongoing viability of material recovery facilities and expanded operations that offer additional support for their continued operation that both support resource recovery activities through container refund points.

**Recommendation 9:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government assesses options and implements mandated product stewardship schemes (where no national scheme exists) for other problem waste streams and explores pathways for container refund points to facilitate the collection and recycling of soft plastics, batteries and other recyclable items.

**Recommendation 10:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government consults with Queensland councils to better understand the challenges associated with operating viable material recovery facilities (MRF's) and explore opportunities to maintain and expand sustainable resource recovery and recycling activities.

### 3.6 Waste Strategy, Regional Plans and Infrastructure Roadmap

The LGAQ acknowledges the State Government's commitment to the need for long-term planning for waste and recycling infrastructure and the recent State Government announcement of the importance of progressing the delivery of a Statewide Waste and Recycling Infrastructure Plan (Roadmap) and the ongoing commitment to an updated Queensland Waste Strategy and the delivery of Regional Waste Management Plans (RWMP's) across Queensland.

As councils are at the end of the pipe with the management of waste a resource recovery, the LGAQ looks towards the Waste Strategy and infrastructure plan to provide the certainty and coordination industry needs to invest in recycling facilities across Queensland.

These critical documents, supported by RWMP's will act as roadmaps to guide state government, council and private sector investment in infrastructure that supports recycling and resource recovery across the state and is expected to have considerable alignment to the opportunities identified through a strengthened container refund scheme operating across Queensland.

**Recommendation 11:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government:

- considers the outcomes and findings of RWMPs in undertaking the review of the Queensland Waste Strategy,
- provides adequate funding support for the implementation of actions contained in RWMPs, and
- increases investment in critical waste infrastructure throughout Queensland.

**Recommendation 12:** The LGAQ recommends the State Government reviews the objectives and scope and operation of the Scheme, in consultation with Queensland councils and the LGAQ, and its alignment with the broader review of the Queensland Waste Strategy, waste levy and development of a Statewide Waste Infrastructure Roadmap committed to be undertaken in 2026.

## 4.0 Conclusion

Overall, the LGAQ supports the overarching intent of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026*, to ensure that a strengthened container refund scheme delivers successful outcomes across Queensland.

Local governments look towards a strengthened Scheme to deliver accessible collection points with a level of transparency and strong governance arrangements that provide local councils and their communities confidence in the PRO and delivery of a successful container refund scheme across Queensland.

Any potential expansion of the Scheme incorporating additional waste streams including batteries may provide opportunities to build stronger partnerships between councils and the Scheme's PRO and as such provide benefit and efficiencies for the broader community. benefit from the creation of community hubs and leverage transport logistics.

## Attachment 1: LGAQ Policy Statement

The LGAQ Policy Statement<sup>5</sup> is a definitive statement of the collective voice of local government in Queensland. The relevant policy positions of local government in the context of regulating renewable energy development to achieve and maintain a social licence to operate in Queensland local government areas are as follows:

### 5.4 Waste Management

#### 5.4.1 Waste Management Strategy and regional waste plans

- 5.4.1.2 Local government supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the development of the waste and secondary resource industry that is complementary and integrated with the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy for Queensland.
- 5.4.1.5 Goals and targets should be jointly developed between the State and local government to provide direction and enable outcomes to be measured. Improved measurement against goals and targets will enable better monitoring of policy and strategy to ensure continuous improvement.
- 5.4.1.6 Local government supports community behaviour change driven through education and awareness campaigns being developed to focus on 'selling' waste minimisation and recycling to the community and small to medium-sized enterprises.

#### 5.4.5 Extended Producer Responsibility

- 5.4.5.1 Local government strongly supports the principle and introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility.
- 5.4.5.2 The State and Federal governments should establish the necessary policy and legislative frameworks for the effective implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility.

#### 5.4.6 Costs of Waste Management

- 5.4.6.1 The principles of 'user pays' and 'polluter pays' should be applied where possible in addressing the issue of charging for waste management services.

#### 5.4.7 Recycling

- 5.4.7.1 Local government is strongly committed to a circular economy for waste management supported through the introduction of economically, environmentally and socially sustainable recycling schemes.
- 5.4.7.2 Local government supports the removal of regulatory barriers that unnecessarily restrict the wide implementation of economically, environmentally and socially sustainable recycling schemes.
- 5.4.7.3 Local government strongly supports the principle of the integration of waste management from 'cradle to grave' with a move away from a linear approach to waste management especially with a focus on those waste minimisation options at the top of the waste management hierarchy: waste avoidance and reduction, and materials re-use and recycling.
- 5.4.7.4 Local government supports the development of expanded markets for recyclables through influencing government policy and committing to promoting and marketing recycled products.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.lgaq.asn.au/downloads/file/183/2019-lgaq-policy-statement>

#### 5.4.9 Landfill Management

- 5.4.9.1 Local government supports improved actions to divert materials from landfill to conserve valuable landfill airspace.

#### 5.4.12 Container Refund Scheme

- 5.4.12.1 Local government support the Container Refund Scheme (CRS) subject to:
  - The continuation of there being no negative financial impact on individual council waste and recycling operations and/or current contractual arrangements;
  - The continuation of there being full consultation and agreement with local governments in relation to the location and installation of container collection infrastructure;
  - Councils and council contractors not being excluded from claiming the container deposit refund on eligible containers collected through kerbside or other recycling collection arrangements; and
  - Councils not being directed by the State Government but retaining the right to determine whether or not they establish and operate container collection centres.

## Attachment 2: LGAQ Annual Conference Resolutions

The LGAQ is committed to member driven advocacy and working with members to build stronger local government and more resilient local communities.

The following resolutions have been passed by Queensland councils at previous LGAQ Annual Conferences and are relevant to the inquiry into improving Queensland's container refund scheme:

- Resolution 99 (2025) - Review the pricing formula under the Container Refund Scheme (CRS)
  - That the LGAQ calls on the State Government to review the pricing formula under the Container Refund Scheme (CRS) to:
    - to increase the refund amount per container to 20 cents, and
    - ensure there are mechanisms in place for annual adjustments that consider CPI and the limitations of recycling options within regional, rural and remote areas, to provide transparency and greater certainty for industry.
- Resolution 46 (2024) – Establishing long-term sustainable recovery and recycling processing solutions within regional Queensland
  - The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:
    - Undertake an urgent investigation into the current state of play of kerbside commingled recycling within Regional Queensland including an Options Assessment and a Funded Regional Commingled Recycling Infrastructure Plan based on the preferred option; and
    - Invest in long-term, sustainable recovery and recycling solutions to service regional areas.
- Resolution 124 (2023) – Implement a statewide community education and behaviour change program to promote waste minimisation and resource recovery
  - The LGAQ calls on the State Government to take immediate steps to introduce and publicise a consistent and ongoing statewide recycling and waste minimisation education program that, in addition to supporting community education undertaken by local government:
    - Is deployed within a maximum of 12 months of the date of the LGAQ Annual Conference;
    - Aims for a reduction in contamination of kerbside recycling; and
    - Supports initiatives under adopted Regional Waste Management Plans and circular economy principles.
- Resolution 10 (2023) – Enabling the Circular Economy
  - The LGAQ calls on the State Government to provide urgent investment certainty for local governments and industry that will develop a circular economy across Queensland, by fast-tracking the delivery of new resource recovery infrastructure and associated services, with front-ended funding under a long-term infrastructure plan.
- Resolution 21 (2023) – Waste levy and advance payment review
  - The LGAQ calls on the State Government to:

- Bring forward the review of waste levy rates, levy zone and advance payments to local government in line with outcomes identified by Regional Waste Management Plans.
    - Maintain the waste levy annual payments for all levy councils at 100% until such time as the state waste targets and corresponding advance payments can be reviewed and better aligned with the data compiled in Regional Waste Management Plans.
- Resolution 22 (2023) – Dedicated regional waste infrastructure funding
  - The LGAQ calls on the State Government to provide:
    - Dedicated funding to reduce the impacts of distance for regional, rural and remote councils from existing advanced waste recycling or repurposing facilities; and
    - Additional funding for appropriate and compliant waste management services.
- Resolution 84 (2023) – Unlawful dumping of end-of-life tyres (EOLT)
  - The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to implement a mandatory product stewardship scheme to:
    - Prohibit the return of end-of-life (EOLT) to customers following changeover of tyres; or
    - Alternatively, mandate the requirement for record keeping relating to the trade of tyres.
- Resolution 85 (2023) – Disposal of solar panels
  - The LGAQ calls on the State and Federal governments to develop solutions for the disposal of solar panels, possibly including:
    - Reclamation, recycling, and implementation of a levy mechanism for solar panels to ensure better waste disposal;
    - Exploring manufacturers’ liability for the photovoltaic (PV) panels to encourage sustainable management; and
    - Working with State Government to legislate industry wide solutions.
- Resolution 119 (2022) – Roadmap and non-competitive funding to implement actions from Regional Waste Plans
  - The LGAQ calls on the State Government to commit to a roadmap and non-competitive funding program for local governments to implement actions from Regional Waste Plans. Introduction of non-competitive funding programs for local governments to implement actions from the Regional Waste Plans.