

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

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Mr Robert Molhoek MP
Chair, Health, Environment and Innovation Committee
Member for Southport
Queensland Parliament

Delivered via email: heic@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair,

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

I write on behalf of Asahi Beverages regarding the Committee's review of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Strengthening the Container Refund Scheme) Amendment Bill 2026*.

We appreciate the Committee's ongoing examination of Queensland's waste and recycling framework and welcome the opportunity to contribute to the process.

Our manufacturing footprint

Asahi Beverages is proud to be Australia's leading beverages company. We have 17 breweries and manufacturing plants across Australia, where we produce some of Australia's most loved alcohol and non-alcohol brands.

Asahi Beverages employs more than 4,000 Australians of which more than 600 are in your home state of Queensland. We're privileged to operate Australia's largest brewery at Yatala, as well as a state-of-the-art non-alcohol beverages plant at Wulkuraka. In addition to those major production sites, we own Balter Brewing on the Gold Coast – an extraordinary Queensland success story – and Green Beacon.

Asahi Beverages makes a substantial contribution to Queensland jobs and the economy, from manufacturing to our contribution to hotels, hospitality and retail in almost every town and city in the State. In partnership with our hospitality partners in particular we contribute strongly to the Sunshine State's world class tourism offering.

We're proud that 95 per cent of the beverages we sell in Australia, we make in Australia.

Our brands

On the alcohol side our brands include Great Northern (the biggest beer brand in QLD and the country), Victoria Bitter, Carlton Draught, Asahi Super Dry, Pure Blonde, Peroni, Cascade, Reschs, Somersby cider, Vodka Cruiser, Never Never gin and craft brands, including Balter, Green Beacon, 4Pines, Pirate Life, and Mountain Goat.

Members of the Asahi Beverages Group

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On the non-alcohol side our brands include Schweppes, Solo, Cottee's, Spring Valley juices, and Cool Ridge water. We also produce and distribute under license a number of leading beverages, including Pepsi and Gatorade.

Our support for Container Deposit Schemes

Asahi Beverages is committed to playing a proactive role in the circular economy and recycling. Along with playing an active role in helping manage a number of Container Deposit Schemes around Australia, we are part of the Circular Plastics Australia joint venture which has recently built Australia's two largest PET recycling facilities. These facilities both recycle the equivalent of around 1 billion 600ml PET plastic bottles each year, increasing the amount of locally sourced and recycled PET produced in Australia by two-thirds. Both rPET facilities are critical parts of the circular economy and the container deposit schemes that operate across mainland Australia.

Queensland's Container Refund Scheme is an important part of the State's resource recovery system. It has supported the return of a very large volume of beverage containers while also enabling the participation of a wide range of community organisations, social enterprises, and small businesses in collection and processing activities. The Scheme has generated meaningful economic and social outcomes, including employment and funding streams for community groups, alongside environmental benefits through increased recycling.

A key feature of the Scheme is its industry-funded design. Beverage manufacturers, including Asahi Beverages, meet the full cost of its operation. This funding model has been central to delivering outcomes while limiting direct fiscal impacts on government. However, it also means that any increase in Scheme costs may ultimately be reflected in the prices paid by consumers.

The refund amount and consumers' cost of living

We welcome the Queensland Government's decision not to proceed with an increase to the refund amount and therefore the cost to consumers. With the Scheme having only commenced in 2018, a 100% refund increase in just eight years, from 10c to 20c, would have been significantly greater than the rate of inflation, which increased by 26% since November 2018.

International and domestic evidence demonstrates the most effective way to increase returns is to improve the convenience of consumer access to, and type of, container return points. By working with governments and the recycling sector, we want to support practical improvements that make returning refundable containers easier and more accessible, without adding to cost of living pressures for Australian consumers.

We look forward to working with the Queensland Government to improve container return rates but not adding to Queenslanders' cost of living.



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Specific measures

While Asahi Beverages supports a number of the policy objectives reflected in the Bill - particularly those aimed at strengthening oversight and improving Scheme performance - we consider that aspects of both the policy development process and the proposed legislative changes warrant further consideration.

1. Although the Government has indicated its intention to maintain the existing governance structure, including the Producer Responsibility Organisation model, certain elements of the Bill may alter how that model operates in practice. There is a risk that additional regulatory layers or duplicative requirements could increase red-tape and Scheme costs without delivering commensurate benefits.
2. We submit some proposed measures appear to overlap with existing regulatory tools or operational arrangements. This raises the question of whether all proposed amendments are required, or whether existing mechanisms could be better utilised or refined.
3. Given the scale and complexity of the Scheme, we believe additional consultation would assist in identifying practical implications and avoiding unintended consequences.

More broadly, we are concerned that the Bill does not adequately target the structural factors that limit higher container return rates. As indicated above, based on our experience, participation is most strongly influenced by consumer convenience and accessibility. Measures that expand and simplify access to return options are likely to have the greatest impact.

We encourage the Government to consider practical initiatives to improve return rates:

- Expanding the number of, and access to, container return points, and providing more diversity of redemption methods
- Measures to encourage commercial and industrial sites to sort and return eligible containers
- Initiatives to encourage large retailers to host return points
- Approaches to ensure large government facilities participate in CDS
- Improving access for multi-unit dwellings

Like other industry participants, to support effective policy outcomes, we recommend that further progression of the Bill be paused to allow for a more comprehensive assessment process. We believe additional consultation would help ensure that any reforms are appropriately targeted, proportionate, and aligned with broader policy objectives.

Such an approach would also support consistency with the Queensland Government's commitments under its waste strategy and its broader regulatory policy framework, including the principle that regulation should be efficient, evidence-based, and minimise unnecessary costs.



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Asahi Beverages is committed to playing a constructive role in the continued development of container deposit schemes and broader circular economy initiatives and thanks the Committee for the opportunity to contribute. Should you have any questions or seek further information, please don't hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Julian Sheezel
General Manager, Corporate Affairs