




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.11 am): This week one of the Palaszczuk government's major initiatives to reduce plastic pollution will come into effect. In just two days time, Containers for Change—implemented and managed by not-for-profit organisation CoEx—will kick off across the state. From Thursday, Queenslanders will be able to get a 10 cent refund on their drink containers or donate their refund to a charity or community group. This is an exciting step for recycling in the community and Queenslanders are getting on board.

Already, almost 300 charities and community groups have registered to be able to receive donations from the scheme. This is one way the Palaszczuk government is ensuring our valuable community groups can benefit from this initiative, no matter where they are in Queensland. People can donate to community groups across the length and breadth of the state. This means, for example, that a couple living on the Sunshine Coast can return their containers at a refund point in Coolumberrig and choose to donate their refund to the sporting club their grandkids are part of in Cairns. All they need is their chosen group's ID number.

Not only is our scheme going to benefit community groups and charities; it will also reduce litter in the environment. Nearly three billion beverage containers are used in Queensland every year. Unfortunately, these containers are the second most commonly littered item in our environment, despite the fact that they can be easily recycled.

We know Queensland has a bad reputation for recycling. We are the second poorest performer in the country. The Palaszczuk government is working hard to turn that around. Containers for Change creates an incentive for people to recycle and, just like our ban on plastic bags, will reduce litter in our environment and in our waterways, which is good news for turtles, dugongs and other marine life. It will also help reduce the amount of recyclable items going to landfill. Less than half of councils in Queensland have kerbside recycling so this scheme will have a huge impact on recycling in areas that do not have yellow-top bins.

This scheme is about changing behaviours so we can leave Queensland in a better state for future generations. We know it takes time for people to change the way they think about waste and recycling. This is the very start of the scheme, and we expect it to grow as people get involved. I encourage all Queenslanders to get on board and return their containers for change.