



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 November 2018

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Container Refund Scheme**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): Today is an exciting day for Queensland: Containers for Change is now here. From today, Queenslanders are able to get a 10 cent refund on their drink containers or they can donate their refund to a charity or community group. The recycling scheme has been years in the making and I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is initiating change to ensure a better future for our state.

Container Exchange or CoEx, the not-for-profit company implementing the scheme for Queensland, was set a target of ensuring that there are 232 refund points operational across the state from today. I am pleased to say that they have exceeded that target. Today Queenslanders can return their drink containers to 251 sites. For the benefit of the House, I table the list of those 251 sites. In addition, there are around 300 sites ready to open during normal opening hours.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, listing container refund point locations, types and opening hours [1789](#).

Across Queensland, more than 2,000 charities and community groups have submitted an expression of interest to become a donation point, which is great news for the community. Containers for Change is a recycling initiative that will help reduce litter in our environment. Every year in Queensland nearly three billion beverage containers are used and, sadly, those containers are the second most commonly littered item in our environment. That is despite the fact that they can be easily recycled. However, from today, each eligible container will have a financial value.

The scheme is contributing other benefits. This morning I visited a refund point at West End where the operator, which is managing 10 sites, told me they have employed 55 people because of Containers for Change. CoEx informs me that this is being repeated across the state, with hundreds of new jobs being created. People all across Queensland are excited about what this scheme means for our communities. The mayor of the Fraser Coast said—

Drink containers are a common form of litter on the Fraser Coast, we see them in our creeks, parks and footpaths. The container refund scheme gives everyone an incentive to collect containers.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Coomera, your interjections are completely unnecessary. You are warned under the standing orders. I have a short fuse today, members.

**Ms ENOCH:** The mayor of Gladstone said—

As a council we strongly believe in supporting our residents to recycle at every opportunity.

Councillor Alan Wilson from Cook Shire Council, who has lobbied for a scheme such as this in Queensland for more than 10 years, said—

The 10c refund is a real incentive for people to be more responsible dealing with litter.

Today is just the beginning of a new scheme that will grow as more Queenslanders participate. I encourage all members to get involved in and support Containers for Change.