




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.03 am): Queensland's container refund scheme, Containers for Change, started on 1 November and has had amazing results so far. In less than a fortnight, more than 10 million containers have been returned. That is \$1 million that has already gone back into the pockets of Queenslanders and charities. At the one-week mark, Queensland had returned three million more containers than New South Wales had in the first week of their scheme, which started almost one year ago. Once again, Queenslanders are showing up our rivals south of the border.

This is a wonderful achievement for Queenslanders. The container refund scheme has provided employment opportunities and new business ventures right across the state. Last week, along with the member for Maryborough, I visited a container refund point in Maryborough. We met some of the seven new employees in that business and the owner suggested that another seven are planned for the near future. Across Queensland around 500 new jobs have been created from the container refund scheme and we expect this to increase.

The container refund scheme is also helping charities, community organisations and schools, who are receiving donated refunds. Last week I heard firsthand how Clifford Park Special School in Toowoomba was benefiting from the scheme thanks to its partnership with the refund point operated by E&E Waste. Sunshine Coast Animal Refuge is also benefiting from the scheme thanks to its partnership with a refund point operated by TOMRA, which I also had the opportunity to visit last week. The scheme is a win-win-win. Not only is it creating jobs and business opportunities; it is also benefiting the people of Queensland and helping the environment.

Queenslanders use nearly three billion containers every year and they are the second most commonly littered item in the environment. These figures show that Containers for Change will have a huge impact on that and will improve recycling rates right across Queensland. Let's not forget that this is the very beginning of our scheme. We expect it will continue to grow as more and more Queenslanders get on board and return their containers for change.