



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2019

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Container Refund Scheme**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): Today marks the six-month anniversary of Queensland's container refund scheme. What a landmark anniversary for Containers for Change, with more than 440 million containers returned so far and over 630 jobs created. Those jobs, of course, form part of the more than 192,000 jobs that have been created since the Palaszczuk government was elected. The volume of returned containers is about a third higher than predicated, as April saw more than three million containers returned per day. At this rate Queensland is on track to reach one billion containers within 12 months. I would like to say well done, Queensland, and thank you for embracing the scheme like you have.

More than 165,000 individuals, charities and community organisations have registered for a scheme ID. Importantly, jobs are being created across the state, with many being filled by people who have been long-term unemployed. Around \$44 million in payments have been made to individuals, container refund point operators, community groups and charities. Around 270 container refund points are now operating in all corners of the state and new sites are still coming online. Last week while I was in Hervey Bay I visited a new depot that has just opened in Urangan. The community in Wide Bay is really getting behind the scheme. I talked to some young men who are working at the depot who had been unemployed for a long time but have now found jobs that they enjoy and are enthusiastic about.

Not only is the scheme a win for communities but also it is demonstrating real environmental benefits. The results from the first post-commencement litter surveys conducted in February 2019 are already showing a 35 per cent reduction in beverage container litter. This is an extraordinary reduction and goes to show the importance of allowing crushed, slightly dirty, sandy, muddy or damaged containers to be returned through the scheme. One only has to look around our streets, parks and nature reserves to see people walking their dogs or going for a bush walk carrying bags that they can use to collect littered containers. COEX is playing a responsive role in resolving issues as they are raised with them and I am confident that the scheme will only get better in the next few months as more sites open. Containers for Change is a win for individuals and charities, a win for the environment, and a win for local jobs.