



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 June 2019

## **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) (10.11 am): In just seven months Queenslanders have now returned more than 542 million containers through the Container Refund Scheme. Since the Palaszczuk government introduced the scheme in November last year, mums and dads, community groups and school students have proven how much they want to recycle, and these figures are proof of their great work.

Over \$54 million in refund payments has now been paid to individuals, community groups and charities. This is 35 per cent more than was forecast for this period. Suffice to say, the popularity of the scheme has exceeded expectations. The great news for Queensland is that around 640 new jobs have been created as a result of the scheme around the state, many in small businesses in regional areas.

More than 275 container refund points are now operating across the state. In the last month alone new sites have opened at Hervey Bay, Cooroy, Yamanto, Atherton, Boyne Island, Sandgate, Dalby and Beaudesert. In addition, more than 180,000 Queenslanders have registered for a scheme ID, enabling them to have a refund paid directly into their bank account.

More than 3,500 community groups, schools, charities and sports clubs have also registered for a scheme ID, allowing others to donate their container refunds to the group of their choice. I am pleased that CoEx has reported to government that interest in refund point operations continues to grow, with the network of container refund points also expanding so they are accessible to as many Queenslanders as possible. Services are also being streamlined so customers are benefiting from faster, more accessible refunds.

I want to thank the community for their support of the scheme. I also want to acknowledge the hard work of the container refund point operators, many of whom are small businesses, and CoEx staff who have contributed to the success of the scheme to date. Over half a billion containers returned is an incredible effort. It is obvious that Queenslanders want to recycle more, and the Container Refund Scheme is just one way that the Palaszczuk government is supporting the community to do just that.