




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.07 am): In the 10 months that Containers for Change has been operating I have regularly updated the House on its success both in creating jobs for Queenslanders and in the incredible rate of containers being returned. More than 780 million containers have now been returned through a statewide network of container refund points. While parliament is sitting here in Townsville this week, I am delighted to inform the House that the Townsville region has returned over 57 million containers through the scheme, meaning that over \$5.7 million has been returned to the Townsville community. There are some 18 container refund points in the community, and this scheme has helped create jobs for the Townsville region, which we expect will continue to grow.

Earlier this week I visited Reef Logistics and saw the amazing set-up they have at their depot. It is quite remarkable and the results are incredible. They count on average more than 130,000 containers a day through their one depot. They have more than 60 people employed on their books at their depot, including some who have been previously long-term unemployed. Their number of staff has increased by nearly 50 per cent since the beginning of the scheme, as more and more Townsville residents have been embracing the scheme and returning their containers. In fact, we can all be involved right here from the convention centre precinct. I encourage members and staff to recycle containers through the scheme by putting their used eligible beverage containers in any of the eight blue recycling bins scattered throughout the precinct. All of the containers collected here at the convention centre go to Reef Logistics for recycling and proceeds go back to the convention centre, so let's get recycling.

Across Queensland nearly three million containers per day are being returned through the scheme. That is an outstanding result. At this rate, Queensland is on track to reach one billion containers by the end of the year. This is an amazing effort, and Queenslanders should be congratulated for the positive and enthusiastic way they are embracing the scheme.