




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk government's popular container refund scheme, Containers for Change, is going from strength to strength. Last month the scheme achieved another significant milestone, with the seventh billion container received. That is seven billion containers that have been diverted from landfill to be recycled and re-used. This year alone, a record 1.13 billion containers have been returned to the more than 360 return points across Queensland.

Before the Palaszczuk government launched Containers for Change in November 2018, only 18 per cent of drink containers were being recovered and recycled in Queensland. The current rate is almost 64 per cent, and the Palaszczuk government is determined to see that rate rise even further. Of course, another important benefit of this scheme is the money it puts back into the pockets of Queenslanders at a time when they need it most. Since the scheme began, more than \$700 million has been returned to Queenslanders through the scheme, including almost \$11 million which has been paid to charities and community groups.

We know that Queenslanders want to do even more to reduce, re-use and recycle waste. That is why our government is working with Container Exchange, the not-for-profit company appointed to run the scheme, to further increase the rate of container recycling. This includes, in an Australian first, expanding the scheme to include glass wine and pure spirit bottles from next week. From Wednesday, 1 November, Queenslanders will get 10 cents for every glass wine and spirit bottle, from 150 millilitres to three litres, deposited at one of the container refund points found across the state. Our decision to include glass wine and pure spirit bottles followed an extensive consultation period where more than 6½ thousand Queenslanders shared their thoughts about including additional containers in the refund program. Some 98.1 per cent of participants were in favour of more containers being made eligible for refunds through the program.

The Department of Environment and Science and Container Exchange have been actively engaging with wine manufacturers to help them prepare for the expansion. In recent weeks I have also met with representatives from peak bodies representing wine and spirit producers. I welcome their cooperation with implementing this important initiative.

Containers for Change is an important part of our government's commitment to make Queensland a zero-waste society by 2050. We are determined to build a circular economy where materials are re-used, recycled or remanufactured more, and less waste is produced in the first place. Implementing a circular economy is good for the environment, the economy and jobs. For every one job in landfill there are three jobs in recycling and remanufacturing.