



Speech By  
**Hon. Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Containers for Change

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.52 am): Mr Acting Speaker, 6.4 billion containers, over \$600 million in refunds, more than 360 refund points and 815 jobs—Queenslanders have made it clear that they back our Containers for Change program, or most Queenslanders. They have made it clear once again that they want to recycle even more. We asked Queenslanders, ‘Do you want to see Containers for Change expand?’ Overwhelmingly, they said yes. Over 98 per cent of the 6,500 Queenslanders consulted supported a move to make Containers for Change bigger and better. So today we announce an Australian first—that from 1 November all glass wine and spirit bottles will be eligible for a 10-cent refund.

When we launched the Containers for Change scheme five years ago, only 18 per cent of beverage containers were being recovered and recycled in Queensland. That number has grown threefold. Stacked end to end, the containers we have recovered from this program would run the length of Queensland about 300 times. It has helped groups like OzHarvest raise much needed funds that in turn have helped create 21,000 meals for Queenslanders in need. Including more products in the scheme means more money that local charities can raise and the ability for regional and remote communities to recycle where they may not have a yellow-top bin. From the perspective of Queensland’s fast-growing recycling industry, it means beverage containers can be sorted and remanufactured into a cleaner waste stream.

Containers for Change staff are now hard at work making sure that, come the festive season, people will be able to drop off their bottles at more than 360 depots across the state, so Queenslanders can pop the champagne bottles in due course. Queenslanders have shown us they love Containers for Change and they want to earn money for recycling their wine and spirit bottles. We are delivering.