



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Linard**


**MEMBER FOR NUDGEES**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Innovation) (10.28 am): Today I am pleased to advise the House of another record broken by the Miles government's hugely successful Containers for Change scheme. Last month a record 175,805,461 containers were returned by Queenslanders for a refund and recycling.

**A government member:** In a month?

**Ms LINARD:** That is in a month; absolutely. This result smashed the previous record of 157,525,681 containers returned 12 months earlier in January 2023. For anyone doing the math, that is 18.2 million more containers returned for recycling and refund or an 11.6 per cent year-on-year increase. Queenslanders deserve a pat on the back for this fantastic effort. An important contributor to this result was our government's expansion of the scheme to include glass wine and spirit bottles in November last year. Since November, we have seen a 13.5 per cent increase in the number of glass containers being returned.

Since 1 November 2023, the average number of glass containers being returned is around 1.235 million each day. Since Containers for Change started in November 2018, more than 7.75 billion containers have been received. That is 7.75 billion containers diverted from landfill and instead recycled and re-used. Importantly, at a time when everyone is facing cost-of-living pressures, the scheme has returned more than \$775 million to Queenslanders' back pockets. This includes almost \$12 million which has been paid to charities and community groups.

Before the launch of Containers for Change, only 18 per cent of drink containers were being recovered and recycled in Queensland. The current rate is now almost 64 per cent, and our Miles government is determined to see that rate rise even further. It is an important part of our commitment to make Queensland a zero-waste society by 2050 and 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. It is also important to remember that it is not just about it being good for the environment; it is also good for jobs. For every one job in landfill there are three jobs in recycling and remanufacturing.