




Speech By
Hon. Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Container Refund Scheme

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (2.21 pm): Our Queensland grassroots sporting clubs are constantly struggling to fundraise to make sure they have better services and facilities for our kids. Many go to the trouble of collecting containers and rallying their local communities behind them to bring down their bottles and cans to their local club. Stadiums Queensland have collection points located across eight of their venues. They recently confirmed that game 1 of the State of Origin series marked a milestone for Queensland, with the event marking four million containers recycled through Containers for Change. That is why it is so disappointing to hear the report from the member for Southport this morning about the review of the container refund scheme and some of the issues that have been raised.

Queensland's container refund scheme was meant to do more than recycle bottles; it was meant to reinvest in Queensland communities. It was intended to provide opportunities for charities, community groups and individuals to raise funds through container collection.

Ms Pease: You supported it.

Mr MANDER: I will come back to that comment. Those funds were to support their players and maintain facilities. Instead, Coex has failed to meet its targets and, as a result, sat on funds that could have otherwise flowed back into the community. Due to refund redemptions remaining well below the legislated 85 per cent target, every container that is not returned becomes additional money for Coex, not for Queenslanders. The member for Southport, through his committee report, uncovered that the scheme now turns over half a billion dollars a year. Alarming, less than two per cent went back to charities, schools, sporting clubs and community organisations. I will say that again: less than two per cent.

As the *Australian* reported, Coex spent more than \$500,000 on an advertising campaign urging schoolchildren to return poppers for recycling, despite the state being unable to recycle them. This was a campaign built on false pretence, funded by money that could have gone back to schools and clubs. This was set up as a not-for-profit; instead, it became a cover-up, established by the opposition leader for alleged corruption. The opportunity lost is one thing. However, another is the mismanagement and conflicts of interest that have been publicly exposed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take the interjection from the member for Woodridge and the interjection from the member for Mansfield. We did support the scheme. We support recycling. What we do not support is maladministration.

Ms McMILLAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that comment made by the member for Everton. I was sitting here in my seat and I was silent. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McDonald): Was the interjection from the member for Lytton?

Ms Pease: No.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. Minister, you have the call and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Members of the opposition were screaming out, 'You supported it.' Yes, we supported it. We support recycling, but who can support this organisation after what has been revealed today by the member for Southport? This is alleged corruption—alleged snouts in the trough, doubling of their salaries, doubling of their director fees. No matter where they go and how long they have been out of government, the stink stays with them.