

Question on Notice

No. 1258

Asked on Wednesday, 19 September 2018

MRS J STUCKEY ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Containers for Change program—

Will the Minister advise (a) whether the government has established an interest free loan scheme to assist with the set-up costs for donation point infrastructure, (b) whether the GST is incorporated into the refund amount, (c) why flavoured milk bottles will be accepted, but not plain milk, (d) what the government is doing to make the community aware and (e) where the location/s are in Currumbin?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

In terms of support for donation points, Container Exchange (CoEx) has been encouraging not-for-profit organisations to register their interest in signing up for a scheme account or being a physical donation point on the Containers for Change website.

CoEx is also providing information to community groups about their local refund point operators so that community organisations can better understand what they may need to do to be able to take collected containers to a refund point.

GST is incorporated into the refund amount. A person returning eligible containers to a refund point will receive the full 10 cent refund amount.

The exclusion of plain milk containers from the scheme, and inclusion of flavoured milk containers, is consistent with schemes in all other states and territories. This is to reduce consumer confusion about which containers are eligible for the refund and avoid labelling inconsistencies, and therefore additional costs, in different states for national brand owners.

The Containers for Change website at <https://www.containersforchange.com.au/>, will provide information for the community in relation to container refund point locations, including information about the type of refund point, how the refund is paid (for example, digital retail voucher, cash, EFT payment into a bank account or a combination) and opening hours. This information will continue to be updated closer to the commencement date. A communication and advertising campaign is also underway by CoEx to promote the scheme.

Locations of refund points by suburb/town are currently available on the Containers for Change website. Refund points in the Currumbin electorate are planned to be located at Bilinga, Currumbin, Coolangatta and Tugun. More sites will come online as the scheme rolls out.