

Question on Notice

No. 220

Asked on Wednesday, 27 February 2019

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister detail what key performance indicators have been set for the Container Refund Scheme provider and whether they are meeting them?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Two key performance indicators have been set for the Container Refund Scheme provider. These are embedded in legislation, which is a first for any container refund scheme in the world. This legislation received bipartisan support in the Parliament.

Container Exchange, the not-for-profit company appointed to operate the container refund scheme, must:

1. establish at least 307 container refund points by 1 November 2019; and
2. achieve a container recovery rate of at least 85% for the financial year starting on 1 July 2021.

As a condition of appointment, Container Exchange was also required to establish at least 232 container refund points across the State by 1 November 2018.

This requirement was exceeded. When the scheme commenced on this date, more than 250 container refund point sites were in operation throughout Queensland.

Under a Ministerial Direction issued to Container Exchange, the company was also required to establish at least 75% of the required refund points in all of the 14 geographic regions of the State by 1 March 2019.

This has been delivered in all but one region, north Queensland (including the local government areas of Mount Isa, McKinlay, Flinders and Richmond), due to the recent severe weather conditions. Container Exchange continues to work with businesses, community organisations and councils to ensure reasonable access can be provided to communities in this region.

As at 28 March 2019, over 324 million containers have been returned through container refund points. This is more than 34% higher than that projected for this point in the scheme's operation.

This extraordinary result demonstrates the Queensland community's overwhelming support for the scheme.