

Question on Notice

No. 33

Asked on Tuesday, 12 February 2019

MR N DAMETTO 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 commit to address concerns on access and delivery of the program to all Queenslanders and not only to those living in major centres?

ANSWER:

Containers for Change (the container refund scheme) has been a great success story. In just over four and a half months, more than 283 million containers have been returned and counted through more than 270 container refund points located across the State. This is an outstanding result and is around 35 per cent above what was forecast for container returns at this point in the scheme's implementation.

The container refund point network is made up of a mix of depots, reverse vending machines, over-the-counter and unmanned bag drops and mobile points.

I am pleased to advise that container refunds points are currently operating the length and breadth of Queensland — from Cooktown to Coolangatta, from Maryborough to Miles and west to Mount Isa.

Container Exchange (CoEx), the not-for-profit company appointed to operate the scheme, is working hard to identify the priority network gaps and fill these with accessible return points. Regional areas are of course included in that work.

Under legislation, CoEx is required to establish at least 307 container refund points by 1 November 2019. This is a minimum number and the Government is committed to ensuring that reasonable access to refund points is available no matter where people live.

With the scheme still rolling out, new container refund points have also recently started operating in Augathella, Mitchell, Roma and Charleville and solutions for island communities are being prioritised.

The Government also wants to make sure that the type of refund point services the needs of the community.

Small businesses and not-for-profit groups which have worked so hard to establish the scheme, are to be congratulated. Over 600 jobs have so far been created across the State as a result of these efforts.