

Question on Notice

No. 634

Asked on Tuesday, 30 April 2019

MS S BOLTON 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 advise when we may see other containers such as (but not limited to) wine bottles, milk bottles and spirit bottles included in the Container Refund Scheme?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

An important design consideration for the Queensland Container Refund Scheme was consistency with container schemes in other Australian states and territories.

To minimise costs and maximise efficiency across the nation, the list of containers accepted by the schemes in New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, South Australia and Queensland should be as similar as possible.

There is a possibility of future change. The South Australian Government is currently conducting a review of its container scheme. In operation since 1977, it is the oldest in the nation.

One of the areas of their review is the range of containers that are included under the scheme. This review is being watched closely by other states and its outcomes will contribute to national discussions on the issue.

The Queensland Government is actively participating in these discussions.

Queensland's container refund scheme has been in operation for almost 7 months and container returns to-date have surpassed everyone's expectations, with over 523 million returns through more than 275 container refund points and the creation of over 640 jobs across the State.