

## Question on Notice

No. 91

Asked on Wednesday, 13 February 2019

**MR D PURDIE** 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 Container Refund Scheme—

Will the Minister advise (a) since the introduction of the scheme (i) how many containers have been returned on the Sunshine Coast, (ii) how much money has been refunded to individuals and community groups on the Sunshine Coast and (b) what action is being taken to address community feedback regarding the difficulty in accessing refunds and the lack of bags raised by residents in the Ninderry Electorate?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

Since Containers for Change (the container refund scheme) commenced on 1 November 2018, more than 283 million containers have been returned and counted through more than 270 container refund points located across the State. Of these, around 12 million have come through container refund points located on the Sunshine Coast.

This is an extraordinary response in just over four and a half months and Queenslanders have embraced the scheme wholeheartedly.

The container refund point operators, which include small business and not-for-profits, should be congratulated for their hard work and efforts in getting the scheme to this point. Across the State over 600 jobs have been created through the scheme.

Money from the scheme has gone directly back into the pockets of individuals, businesses and community groups on the Sunshine Coast – about \$1.2 million since the scheme started.

The majority of container refund point operators across the network are small businesses. A large percentage of the network involves charity partners providing the refund point location with volunteers providing the service to the community.

Operators are working with CoEx to identify priority areas that could benefit from additional container refund points or consolidation into a depot that can provide an all-round service to the community.