



For Immediate Release

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A Great Leap Forward for Bottle and Can Litter Reduction and Recycling in Queensland

The Boomerang Alliance and Wildlife Queensland today welcomed the State Government's decision to introduce a Container Deposit Scheme (cash for containers) in Queensland, describing it as a great leap forward for litter reduction, recycling, environmental protection, and a financial boost for community organisations who collect cans and bottles.

'The fact is that beverage containers represent a large part of litter. The introduction of a CDS could halve litter in Queensland, and limit the impacts of dangerous plastic pollution of the environment,' said Toby Hutcheon, spokesperson for the Boomerang Alliance and Wildlife Queensland.

'Cash for containers is a proven scheme and will slash litter rates, increase recycling across the state, create hundreds of jobs in collection and re-processing and provide a financial boost to community organisations interested in collecting can and bottles.'

'In Queensland we use over 2.4 billion beverage containers every year. Most are either landfilled or littered. In South Australia, which has a container deposit scheme, over 80% of containers are recycled.'

"With NSW set to introduce a cash for containers scheme in 2017, this decision means that NSW and QLD can cooperate and address container litter once and for all. We hope this joint action will encourage other states such as Victoria and WA to follow suit."

South Australia, with its cash for containers scheme, has according to the CSIRO, the least amount of plastic and container litter in Australia. The scheme is overwhelmingly popular.

'We pay tribute to the many local groups and thousands of people in metro and regional Qld who have campaigned for many years. Our organisations also welcome the support of the QLD LNP, the Independents and the Speaker of the QLD Parliament in backing a cash for containers scheme. Bipartisanship has made a big difference.'

'With recent Queensland polls showing 85% support for cash for containers and 73% concern about plastics in the environment, we call on all sectors of Queensland society to get involved with this proven and effective measure.'

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