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VICTORIA'S DRINK CONTAINER REFUNDS WILL FACE CRITICAL CHALLENGE

Victoria's announcement today, to implement a container deposit scheme (CDS), as part of the Circular Economy Statement is an important first step to save and grow the state's recycling industry and reputation - but success will depend on critical design decisions, the Boomerang Alliance of 51 environment groups said.

"It's essential the Victorian Government create a strong, independent design process that produces the most effective and convenient CDS for Victoria. Public credibility of the scheme will be important. Long standing opposition to the scheme by groups such as the Australian Hotels Association, backed by big drinks companies should exclude them from any influence on the rollout of collection and refund points," said Boomerang Director, Jeff Angel.

"If done properly it means we can finally get drink container litter under control; stop wasting resources; and power up high value recycling."

"While the basic elements of eligible containers and the 10cent refund value are set by needing to harmonise with the other states to prevent disrupting interstate trade – there are the key elements of consumer convenience, clear governance and commitment to maximum recycling and sufficient implementation time. NSW has some good lessons here."

"The last thing the community needs is a scheme riddled with conflicts of interest; resistance to transparency; and a weak compliance system controlling the managers. Once a scheme is put into place, it's very hard to change these basics," Mr Angel said.