

**MEDIA RELEASE  
10 August 2020****Coke/Lion Tas Container Refund Scheme – ‘a grave mistake’**

It would be a grave mistake for Tasmania to go down the path of the container refund scheme proposed by Coke and Lion (TasRecycle), the Boomerang Alliance of 52 environment NGOs said today.

“There’s a lot of spin not borne out by the facts. They like to point to how their model operates in Queensland but a recent independent [report](#) exposed some serious flaws. Compromises have been made to create an inconvenient system disadvantaging those who want a refund; extra financial risks and costs imposed on return depots, including those run by charities; and higher alcoholic drink prices than in NSW which has a more efficient operation,” said Jeff Angel, Director of the Alliance.

“Coke and Lion make great play that the scheme will be run by a non-profit company, but really their CRS is devised to protect their profits. What is essential is that the prime motive of the operator of the network of collection points is to maximise the number of drink containers returned giving the greatest benefit to the environment and recycling rates.”

“When you compare the NSW scheme which avoided drink company control you find there are more return points and they are open three times longer than in Queensland. Naturally the operators of collection points need to recover costs and make a profit – that’s the case in both states – but NSW is doing it more efficiently, with more convenience and less cost.”

“Tasmania should make sure it seeks the best outcome for the community and the environment and ensures a rigorous tendering process to weed out dodgy proposals,” Mr Angel said.