

EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

Awarded contract in NSW Container Deposit Scheme



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NSW's leading beverage suppliers will have major new responsibilities in recycling drink containers in NSW, with industry joint venture Exchange for Change winning a Government tender to co-ordinate the state's Container Deposit Scheme.

Exchange for Change Project Director Jeff Maguire said the beverages industry would be able to mobilise quickly to implement the NSW deposit scheme.

"This is a great opportunity for us to work with the community to help achieve the Government's goal of reducing litter and increasing recycling," Mr Maguire said.

"We look forward to supporting a well-run, effective container deposit scheme for NSW."

"As Scheme Co-ordinator we will work closely with Government to get the scheme up and running, and give the public an even greater incentive to recycle bottles and cans."

The Scheme Co-ordinator for the NSW Container Deposit Scheme will provide a key service to the NSW Environment Protection Authority and government by overseeing management of the new recycling system. The role includes ensuring the efficient flow of funds from the deposits collected by beverage suppliers back to consumers, via the network operator, when they return their containers to collection points.

Jeff Maguire said members of Exchange for Change have significant experience in the recycling and container deposit sectors, with many involved in operating the existing South Australian Scheme that has processed hundreds of millions of containers over its 40 years of operation.

NSW beverage manufacturers are also major re-users of recycled material.

"We recognise the importance of playing a major role in recycling our own bottles and cans," Mr Maguire said.

"For example, in some leading brands up to 50% of the material in PET bottles, and up to 62% of the material in aluminium cans, is recycled"

"This means that the members of Exchange for Change are involved along the entire recycling chain – as we should be.

Mr Maguire said Exchange for Change is also looking forward to working with the Network Operator, which would deliver the operational aspects of the Scheme.

The Network Operator will run collection points across the state and will be accountable for the physical collection points that the community will use.

Mr Maguire said that Exchange for Change will set up an industry-wide briefing in coming weeks.

ENDS

Contact: Anne Gibson on behalf of Exchange for Change.
M: 0447 065 511 | www.exchangeforchange.com.au

KEY FACTS

- Eligible containers will attract a 10 cent deposit and a fee to cover the costs of operating and administering the Scheme.
- Consumers need to return eligible containers to a collection point in order to receive the 10 cent refund for each eligible container.
- The Government has nominated the number of collection points in the State, within towns and cities, so these are accessible to people returning containers. There will be more collection points in urban areas to handle expected higher container volumes.
- The Scheme will launch in December 2017.

ABOUT EXCHANGE FOR CHANGE

Exchange for Change is a Joint Venture of five of Australia's beverages companies who together sell more than three quarters of the containers eligible for a refund under the NSW Container Deposit Scheme. Its members are Asahi Beverages, Carlton & United Breweries, Coca-Cola Amatil, Coopers and Lion. Through operating similar schemes in South Australia and the Northern Territory, its member companies have more than 40 years' experience managing container refund programs.

Exchange for Change is committed to realising the NSW Government's vision for the Scheme including: achieving the environmental outcomes and providing good public access to the recycling program; robust, accountable and transparent governance; operating the CDS efficiently and effectively to minimise the cost impact to consumers; and, promote community awareness of the refund that will be available and how to get it.

ABOUT THE CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

The NSW Government, through its Waste Management & Resource Recovery Act 2016, legislated to introduce a 10 cent refund on eligible beverage containers consumed in the state. The purpose of the program is to reduce environmental littering by encouraging people to collect and return containers for recycling, and is part of a goal to reduce litter by 40% by 2020. An administrative network has been established by the Government to manage collection and recycling of containers, the costs of which are also covered under Government's scheme. Companies that supply eligible beverage containers in NSW will be charged for the costs of running the scheme (a handling fee per container) and the 10c container refunds.

