

## **More than 10 million containers returned in huge first week of CDS Vic**

Victorians have thrown their support behind Victoria's new container deposit scheme (CDS Vic), returning 10.2 million containers and pocketing more than \$1 million in a huge first week.

CDS Vic officially opened on 1 November, with Victorians now able to receive a 10-cent refund for eligible drink containers returned at hundreds of refund points across the state.

Right across the state, people have embraced the scheme, returning an average of nearly 150 containers per customer in the first week and more than 1.8 million last Saturday alone.

The state's best performing return point was the Melton depot in the state's west zone, operated by indigenous not-for-profit The KARI Foundation in partnership with waste management company Clean Vibes. They processed more than 400,000 containers in the first week.

In the north zone, the best performing return point was the Exchange Depot in Mildura with more than 350,000 containers returned, while in the east zone, it was Return-It Hallam, with more than 220,000.

CDS Vic is overseen by VicReturn, as the Scheme Co-ordinator, and delivered by three zone operators – TOMRA Cleanaway in Victoria's western region, Visy in the north, and Return-It in the east.

VicReturn CEO Jim Round said more than 10 million containers returned in the first week was an incredible result.

"It's fantastic we are already seeing so many Victorians get behind this scheme and return their containers," he said.

There are four types of refund points - reverse vending machines, depots, over-the-counter sites, and pop-ups.

"VicReturn is working closely with our three zone operators to make Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme the most accessible and convenient in Australia," Mr Round said.

"The mix of refund points will make it easier than ever for Victorians to recycle containers, to keep them from ending up in our streets, parks and waterways."

So far, more than 50 per cent of containers returned have been aluminium cans, followed by plastic, which has comprised just under a third of returns. Almost 15 per cent of returns have been glass containers.

Victorians can opt to keep their refund in the form of cash, a retail voucher, or an electronic refund, or donate it to a charity or community organisation registered with the scheme.

To check which containers are eligible for the 10-cent refund, or to find your closest refund point, go to [cdsvic.org.au](https://cdsvic.org.au)

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### **About CDS Vic:**

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme is a new recycling initiative offering a 10-cent refund for each eligible drink container returned. There are hundreds of refund points available across Victoria.

CDS Vic is part of the Victorian Government's \$515 million investment to transform the state's waste and recycling sector. Funded by contributions from the beverage industry, the scheme will contribute to Victoria's target of diverting 80 percent of all material away from landfill by 2030 and represents a significant milestone in our journey towards a circular economy.

### **About VicReturn**

VicReturn is the scheme coordinator appointed to oversee CDS Vic.

We work with the government and partners to play a key role in transforming Victoria's waste and recycling system. We're motivated to help keep beverage containers out of landfills, creating clean streams of recycled materials to help build a circular economy in Victoria.

VicReturn is supported by its members Lion, Coca-Cola Europacific Partners, and Asahi Beverages, who each have significant experience in managing container deposit schemes across Australia.