

Victorians rush to collect refunds in first days of Container Deposit Scheme

Victorians have enthusiastically embraced Victoria's new Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic), returning well over two million containers and collecting more than \$200,000 in refunds in its first two days of operation.

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

VicReturn, a not-for-profit agency funded by the beverage industry, is proud to play a leading role in the rollout of CDS Vic, as the scheme co-ordinator appointed by the Victorian Government.

CEO Jim Round said VicReturn is working closely with the scheme's three zone operators – Tomra Cleanaway in Victoria's western region, Visy in the north and Return-It in the east – to help build a scheme easily accessible to all Victorians.

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

"Recycling Victoria, VicReturn and our network partners are building CDS Vic from the ground up, with hundreds of refund points now open and more coming online in coming weeks,"

"Once fully rolled out, Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme will be the most accessible and convenient in Australia."

To ensure the scheme's accessibility, there is a mix of refund points available all over the state, including reverse vending machines, depots, over-the-counter refund points, and pop-ups to cater for one-off events such as music festivals and large sporting events.

"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."

"Container refunds can be kept by individuals or donated to Victorian charities, schools, sporting and community groups that have registered with the scheme, so I would like to encourage all community groups to register, as this is a great new way to raise funds."

Mr Round said VicReturn's role is to monitor the CDS Vic rollout, conducting audits to ensure it meets rigorous performance targets set by the government.

"As scheme coordinator, we're working hard to build a scheme that is trusted and trustworthy," he said.

"We will help make sure every container received by the scheme is recycled and help make Victoria a leader in the circular economy."

To check which containers are eligible for the 10-cent refund, or to find your closest refund point, go to cdsvic.org.au

For further information please contact:

Kim Stephens

M: 0405 179 555

E: media@vicreturn.com.au



About CDS Vic:

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme is a new recycling initiative offering a 10-cent refund for each eligible drink container returned. Launched on 1 November, hundreds of refund points are emerging 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.