

July 2, 2024

Container Deposit Scheme gives back in Gippsland

Residents across Gippsland are reaping the benefits of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme, with more than 47 million containers returned across six Local Government Areas since it launched in November last year.

The scheme has refunded more than \$4.7 million back to the Gippsland community whilst also diverting drink containers from landfill, building a circular economy that turns them into new recycled products. It's also creating positive flow-on effects for local residents, as demonstrated by two collection points in Morwell and Trafalgar.

Latrobe Valley Enterprises in Morwell operates a depot, bolstering Latrobe Valley Enterprises ability to create meaningful and sustainable employment opportunities for people living with disabilities.

General Manager of Operations, Mark MacManus, says they have collected more than 6.4 million containers at their Morwell site.

"Our staff are happy to come into work and love having something meaningful to do each week. The Container Deposit Scheme has created the opportunity to connect with each other and members of the community who are dropping containers off. This is true social inclusion for our people."

Down in Trafalgar, the local Scouts are also seeing the benefits of taking part in the recycling program.

Scout leader Brett Hicks says their Over-the-Counter collection point has received more than 160,000 containers and created an important experience for the local Scouts.

"Operating this site three times a week is teaching them about responsibility and also boosted their confidence through regular interactions with the community."

"It has been a fantastic opportunity to raise money that we can put back into our local Scouting group."

VicReturn CEO Jim Round says Latrobe Valley Enterprises and Scouts Trafalgar show that the scheme is about so much more than recycling.

"Our goal is to add value to the community through an accessible and convenient scheme that Victorians trust," he said.



“I have loved visiting both these sites today and seeing how local communities are benefiting not only financially and environmentally, but with meaningful employment and community opportunities being created.”

“If you haven’t already, I really encourage all Victorians to get involved with the Container Deposit Scheme.”

“Do something good for the environment and community at the same time. Collect eligible drink containers and score a 10c refund you can keep or donate to one of the 4,000 charities that are registered with us.”

VicReturn is the Scheme Coordinator appointed by the Victorian Government to run the Container Deposit Scheme. There are three Network Operators who manage refund points and ensure customers receive their 10c refund. Return-It is responsible for the East Zone, including Gippsland.

To find out more, including the location of your nearest collection point visit cde.vic.org.au

Local Government Area	Containers returned	Refunds back to the community
Bass Coast	7,732,670	\$773,267.00
South Gippsland	1,947,429	\$194,742.90
Latrobe	13,925,362	\$1,392,536.20
Baw Baw	8,739,016	\$873,901.60
Wellington	7,065,009	\$706,500.90
East Gippsland	7,754,261	\$775,426.10
Total	47,163,747	\$4,716,374.70

****figures are up to date as at 26 June, 2024***