

August 6, 2024

## Container Deposit Scheme gives back in Barwon South West

Residents across Barwon South West are reaping the benefits of Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), with more than 71 million containers returned across nine Local Government Areas since it launched in November last year.

The scheme has refunded more than \$7 million back to the Barwon South West community which is part of the West Zone operated by TOMRA Cleanaway.

It's also creating positive flow-on effects for local residents in Terang where disability service provider Cooinda Terang has proven to be much more than a convenient refund collection site for locals to return their eligible containers.

Local can collector Brian used to collect cans throughout the year and sell them by weight to fund his annual fishing holiday. Since the Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) was installed locally, he has raised enough funds to replace his aging caravan.

Phil Hose, General Manager Cooinda Terang says it's just one example of how the refund collection site has created flow on benefits for the community.

"The RVM at our site has been so successful that we now have a second machine installed to keep up with demand," he said.

"We have processed close to one million containers which has given our employees a great sense of purpose and opportunity to connect with the community each day."

Down the road in Warrnambool the local CDS Vic depot is operated by disability service provider Are-Able, who have increased employee numbers because of the scheme.

Are-Able NDIS services manager Nick Membery said the scheme aligned seamlessly with their ongoing efforts to build a circular economy across their social enterprise which includes gardening, e-waste and fencing hire services.

"The Container Deposit Scheme means we are getting closer to our goal of all elements in our production cycle being used or recycled, minimizing pollution and waste," he said.

"The scheme also represents another sustainable employment opportunity for people living with disabilities, which is a core focus of our organisation."

VicReturn CEO Jim Round says the scheme is going from strength to strength and Barwon South West is a great example of how it is also giving back to the community.

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“The Container Deposit Scheme now has hundreds of return points across the state which means it’s easier than ever for people to return their drink containers and keep them out of landfill,” he said.

“I have loved visiting the RVM in Terang and the depot in Warrnambool today to see firsthand how these sites are giving back to the community, not only by giving people the option to donate their refunds but also by creating meaningful jobs and community connections.”

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. TOMRA Cleanaway is responsible for the West Zone, including Barwon South West.

**To find out more, including the location of your nearest collection point visit [cde.vic.org.au](https://cde.vic.org.au)**

<b>Local Government Area</b>	<b>Containers returned</b>	<b>Refunds back to the community</b>
Colac Otway	4,629,311	\$462,931.10
Corangamite	2,387,789	\$238,778.90
Glenelg	3,736,474	\$373,647.40
Greater Geelong	41,997,965	\$4,199,796.50
Moyne Shire	1,203,731	\$120,373.10
Queenscliffe Borough	38,795	\$3,879.50
Southern Grampians Shire	3,228,692	\$322,869.20
Surf Coast Shire	2,994,910	\$299,491.00
Warrnambool City	10,942,071	\$1,094,207.10
Total	71,159,738	\$7,115,973.80

***\*figures are up to date as at 05 August, 2024***