

Recycling Victoria

FAQs: Container Deposit Scheme



What is a container deposit scheme?

A CDS is an important part of the Victorian Government's *Recycling Victoria* policy, which will invest more than \$300 million to transform our recycling sector to deliver a recycling system Victorians can rely on. It will mean a cleaner, greener Victoria with less waste, better recycling, more jobs and an even stronger economy.

How it works: You return empty cans, small bottles and cartons to a collection point to receive a refund. A refund provides an incentive for Victorians to recycle and will reduce the number of containers that are littered or that go to landfill.

What are the benefits of a container deposit scheme?

Used drink containers, like small bottles, cartons and cans, make up 47 per cent of Victoria's litter.

A container deposit scheme pays you each time you return a used drink container for recycling. It will create new clean material streams for plastic, aluminium and glass, supporting their recycling into new products.

Collecting more containers through this system will mean fewer bottles and cans are littered or end up in the garbage bin, meaning there will be less litter in our local environment impacting wildlife and less waste going to landfill.

The scheme will create new jobs across Victoria, including in regional areas, supporting our local economy. Community organisations will have new opportunities to fundraise and generate income, and there will be opportunities for small businesses to participate.

How much will the refund be?

We think there should be a 10-cent refund for each returned can, small bottle and carton. It's the same refund paid in other parts of Australia.

But we want to know what you think about that. You can tell us by answering a few easy questions engage.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme by 30 November 2020.

How will a CDS benefit sports clubs, community groups and small businesses?

A CDS is a significant opportunity for community groups, charities and sporting clubs to share the benefits and raise much needed funds. Community groups of all sizes will have options for getting involved, including operating refund collection points and fundraising opportunities.

There will also be opportunities for all kinds of businesses to operate collection sites across the state. These opportunities will create new jobs, provide new income streams for existing businesses and strengthen the Victorian economy.

Where will people be able to return their cans, small bottles and cartons?

We have some ideas – like:

- supermarkets
- shopping centres
- pop-up collections for events like fetes and festivals, and
- other popular places in the community.

No decisions have been made yet. We want to hear what works best for you. You can tell us by answering a few easy questions engage.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme by 30 November 2020.

What will Victoria's container collection network look like?

We're consulting on this to make sure it's right for the Victorian community. We want it to be as convenient as possible so it's easy for you to return your cans, bottles and cartons with options such as:

- automated reverse vending machines in public places you visit regularly like shopping centres and local shopping strips.
- drive through collection depots when you're on the go
- mobile drop off points for events and community festivals
- over the counter at local shops for those small trips.

You can help us understand what you want by answering a few easy questions engage.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme by 30 November 2020.

What kind of jobs will the new scheme create?

A container deposit scheme will create jobs in:

- building and running container collection points
- processing materials for recycling
- transport of containers
- technology to manage data and tracking of containers

- maintenance of reverse vending machines and automated counting equipment
- communications
- administration and management.

We know from recently introduced schemes in other states, jobs continue to grow over time. In Queensland, its scheme has seen 600 to 700 jobs created, and in New South Wales 700 jobs have been created. We expect to see similar job opportunities in Victoria.

Why won't I be able to get a refund on empty wine bottles and large milk cartons?

Larger containers - like wine bottles and plain milk cartons – are usually consumed at home. That means they can go straight into household recycling bins. We are introducing a new glass recycling service for households where you can easily recycle your wine bottles and jars.

We also want to keep things simple for business and the community. So, we think the list of drink containers that get the refund in Victoria should be similar to other parts of Australia.

Why hasn't Victoria introduced a container deposit scheme before?

We have had a good look at container deposit schemes in other parts of the country and overseas. That has helped us understand what will work for Victoria and what won't.

We are improving the [household bin system](#) as well, by standardising a four service system for glass, commingled recycling, food and garden waste, and garbage. A container deposit scheme will complement the changes we are making to household waste and recycling.

These two major changes are part of a massive overhaul of our recycling system and part of our \$300 million plan to reduce waste, increase recycling and deliver a waste and recycling system we can rely on.

It was essential to understand how all these new changes fit together and would work for the community, industry and councils.

When will the container deposit scheme start?

It will start in 2022/23.

Why is it taking so long to implement?

We have seen how complicated running container deposit schemes can be in other states.

Business, industry, community and local government are all important players in a making this scheme a success. They need time to prepare for the container deposit scheme.

We also need time to make sure it fits with Victoria's new household recycling system and works in different communities across the state – in our cities and our regions. Making new laws, getting the right people to run it and setting up enough collection points in the right places all take time.

Planning it properly will make it fair, effective and successful.

How will Victoria's container deposit scheme work for residents living on the border?

Containers bought within Victoria must be dropped off to collection points for a refund within the state. The Victorian scheme will be designed to maximise convenience and access for all Victorians.

How will Victoria's container deposit scheme be different from other states?

Victoria's container deposit scheme will be designed to meet Victoria's needs.

We aim to:

- collect as many used containers as possible for recycling
- create new jobs across Victoria including in regional areas
- provide new fundraising opportunities for community groups
- tailor the scheme to the unique needs of communities across Victoria
- reduce litter across Victoria
- support Victoria's recycling system by recovering cleaner materials
- measure outcomes and improve over time.

What type of structure has the government proposed for the CDS?

The Victorian Government is proposing a 'split responsibility' model, where the scheme coordinator function and the network operator function are separated.

In a split responsibility CDS, the scheme coordinator is responsible for managing the operation of the scheme. The beverage industry would play a strong role through involvement with the scheme coordinator, managing the funding of the scheme. The network operator is responsible for managing a network of collection points to collect containers, provide refunds to Victorians and provide the collected containers for recycling.

This model is preferred because it creates incentives for the scheme coordinator to operate an efficient scheme, and the network operator to maximise the number of containers collected. Combined with good governance rules, this model will increase transparency and accountability, and help the Victorian CDS achieve its goals.

How is the government engaging with stakeholders such as the beverage and recycling industry, retailers, businesses and community groups in designing the scheme?

We have established an advisory group involving peak associations for the beverage and recycling industries, charities, environment groups and retailers.

We have met with various representatives across these key stakeholder groups to understand their preferences, and experiences in other jurisdictions.

As the scheme's design and operation evolve, we will continue to consult widely.

How can I have my say?

We want to have the best system in Victoria, which means we need your feedback, so it will be designed and convenient for all Victorians.

Just go to Engage Victoria engage.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme and answer a few simple questions by 30 November 2020.

We would really like to hear from you.