



**Mark Speakman**  
Minister for the Environment

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **CAN WE DO IT? YES WE CAN**

Community groups and keen recyclers will be able to swap their cans and bottles for cold, hard cash from 1 July 2017 with legislation for the NSW Government's landmark 10-cent Container Deposit Scheme passing through Parliament today.

The Waste and Resource Recovery Amendment (Container Deposit Scheme) Bill 2016 paves the way for a cost-effective, best-practice scheme that will benefit both the community and the environment.

"I'm delighted by the overwhelming support from all sides of politics for the NSW Government's Container Deposit Scheme," NSW Environment Minister Mark Speakman said.

"This is something that the community has been asking of their political representatives for decades. It is this government which is finally delivering it, which will fulfill a key election commitment and help meet the Premier Mike Baird's Priority target of reducing litter by 40 per cent by 2020.

"The 2015-2016 National Litter Index found that 49 per cent of litter by volume was made up of beverage containers – and 43 per cent of the total volume was containers that will be caught by the NSW CDS.

"This is a clear sign that there is likely to be a direct environmental benefit to our parks, waterways and beaches when the CDS comes in. Giving people a financial incentive to do the right thing will benefit everyone."

Under the container deposit scheme:

- People in NSW will be able to return empty prescribed beverage containers between 150 ml and three litres to collection points for a 10-cent refund.
- A single Scheme Coordinator will be responsible for the financial management of the scheme and for ensuring the scheme meets state-wide targets.
- Beverage suppliers will be responsible for covering the costs of refunds through agreements with the Scheme Coordinator.
- The Environment Minister will appoint the co-ordinator in early 2017, as well as appointing Network Operators who will be responsible for the operation of the scheme.

Containers not eligible for the scheme are generally not typically found in the litter stream, including plain milk, wine, pure fruit juice (more than 1 litre), health tonics and large flavoured milk containers. More information: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-scheme.htm>