

# Media Release

Ingrid Stitt MP

Minister for Early Childhood & Pre-Prep  
Minister for Environment



Friday, 28 July 2023

## CDS VIC REFUND POINT ROLLOUT BEGINS IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

The Andrews Labor Government is one step closer to delivering Australia's most accessible container deposit scheme, with collection points rolling out across Victoria.

Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt today visited Buninyong, where the first reverse vending machine for Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic) has been installed and will be operational from 1 November this year.

CDS Vic is a new Labor Government initiative that will allow people to return their used drink cans, bottles and cartons for a 10-cent refund, with more than 600 refund points planned across regional Victoria and metropolitan Melbourne.

Within 12 months of the scheme starting, the network operators will be required to have a minimum of one collection point per 14,500 people in metropolitan areas, at least one per town of 750 people in regional areas, and at least one per town of 350 people in remote areas.

Reverse vending machines, depots, over-the-counter sites, and bag drops and collections, will be the four ways people can return their eligible containers.

CDS Vic will reduce the state's litter by up to half, create new economic opportunities, generate up to 640 jobs across the state, and turn drink containers into new recycled products.

VicReturn is the Scheme Coordinator, while zone operators TOMRA Cleanaway, VISY, and Return-It will establish and oversee the refund points and refunds to customers as well as ensure proper recycling of the containers.

The operators are each responsible for the collection point network in their allocated scheme zones: north, east and west.

CDS Vic is part of the Labor Government's \$515 million investment to transform the state's waste and recycling system. This includes the new standardised four-stream waste and recycling system, ensuring that we meet our target of diverting 80 per cent of all material away from landfill by 2030.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Environment Ingrid Stitt

*"Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme will be the most accessible and convenient in the country, making it easier than ever to recycle here in regional Victoria and across our state."*

*"CDS Vic will maximise the number of cans, bottles and cartons being recycled into new products, while reducing the amount of litter in Victoria by up to half."*

### Quotes attributable to CEO of TOMRA Cleanaway, James Dorney

*"As the west zone operator for CDS Vic, TOMRA Cleanaway is proud to be partnering with FoodWorks Buninyong to host a reverse vending machine kiosk."*

**Media contact:** Alex Woods 0422 572 228 | alex.woods@minstaff.vic.gov.au

*“CDS Vic is an exciting opportunity for all the community, and TOMRA Cleanaway as west zone operator is proud to be involved in delivering the best possible scheme for Victorians.”*

**Quote attributable to CEO of VicReturn Jim Round**

*“At sites just like this one, Victorians will be able to return their containers and be rewarded with a refund. Not only will it put money back in their pockets – it’ll make a big difference to our environment and communities.”*

**Quote attributable to Member for Eureka Michaela Settle**

*“This initiative will not only create more local jobs, but it will also put more money in Victorian pockets through recycling.”*