



**Gabrielle Upton**  
Minister for the Environment

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **NSW GETS READY TO “RETURN AND EARN”**

Exchange for Change and TOMRA-Cleanaway have been appointed to head NSW’s “Return and Earn” 10-cent Container Deposit Scheme due to roll out in December, Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton announced today.

The landmark agreements will see Exchange for Change, a Joint Venture of five beverages companies, and TOMRA-Cleanaway appointed as the Scheme Coordinator and Network Operator respectively.

The Scheme Coordinator will ensure the refund is paid through the Network Operator. The Network Operator will run a network of collection points across the state, including more than 800 reverse vending machines.

The roll out of reverse vending machines is a first for Australia. Queensland is set to follow next year.

NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said the Return and Earn scheme would be a convenient and rewarding system for everyone.

“This is the biggest initiative to tackle litter in the state’s history and it will make a massive difference to the amount of rubbish on our streets, parks and waterways right across NSW,” Ms Upton said.

“It will also provide a fundraising opportunity for schools, community and sporting groups, which share in millions of dollars every year in places, where similar schemes have been running for decades.”

The scheme’s main features, included:

- More than 500 collection points across the state, including in remote towns of more than 500 people and at 270 sites across the Greater Sydney Region
- The network will include more than 800 reverse vending machines across NSW
- The 10-cent refund will be provided as either cash, electronic transfer or a voucher for in store redemption
- Eligible containers included most glass, cans, plastic and paperboard drink containers between 150 millilitres and three litres – those often found in the litter stream.

Member Coogee Bruce Notley-Smith said the Return and Earn scheme would be easy to use, accessible and good for the environment.

“A container deposit scheme has been something that I have championed for many years,

because it has been proven to be the best way to drastically reduce the number of drink containers littered in our community,” Mr Notley-Smith said.

Return and Earn will reduce the number of drink containers littered across the state by an estimated 1.6 billion containers over the next 20 years.

“Members of Exchange for Change have significant experience in the recycling and container deposit sectors, with many involved in operating the existing South Australian Scheme that has processed hundreds of millions of containers over its 40 years of operation,” Exchange for Change Project Director Jeff Maguire said.

“TOMRA and Cleanaway have combined our core competences into the role as Network Operator. Cleanaway has years of experience within sustainable material collection and together with TOMRA, the global market leader in reverse vending machines, we can offer a modern, automated and convenient network of collection points to the public. The TOMRA-Cleanaway joint venture is proud to be involved in the Scheme which will help the NSW Government achieve its goal to reduce litter,” Cleanaway General Manager for NSW David Clancy said on behalf of the joint venture.

Eligible drink containers can be refunded for 10-cent from 1 December when Return and Earn commences. For more information visit: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-scheme.htm>

Download flyover maps: <http://qlnk.io/ql/597a93d8e4b087a66c72b081>.

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