Return and Earn, will roll out from 1 December 2017 and will include more than 500 collection points across NSW.

What is a Collection Point?
Collection Points are sites for people to return their eligible drink containers.

The most common Collection Points will be reverse vending machines, in locations like shopping centre car parks, or over the counter collection points such as retailers or charity shops.

How does a Reverse Vending Machine work?
A reverse vending machine is the opposite of a drink dispensing machine. A person places their empty eligible drink container into the machine, the container is scanned to verify it is eligible and the person receives their refund.

People will have a choice how they obtain their refund. They can choose to donate their refund directly to selected charities or transfer it electronically to their designated account.

People can also choose to get a voucher that can be redeemed for cash or credit at partnering retailers. TOMRA-Cleanaway is responsible for managing the reverse vending machines.

When will Collection Points be open?
Collection Points in major urban areas will be open for at least 35 hours each week, including at least eight hours on the weekend.

Regional area Collection Points will be open at least 24 hours each week, including at least eight hours on the weekend.

Remote area collection Points will be open at least 16 hours over a fortnight, including at least eight hours on the weekend during the fortnight.

How do I become a Collection Point?
Any organisation can apply to be a Collection Point Operator. It is up to TOMRA Cleanaway, the Network Operator, to determine where to locate Collection Points and who they wish to contract with to operate a Collection Point.

To register your interest in running a Collection Point, visit the TOMRA-Cleanaway website and fill out their online form at: http://www.tcnsw.com.au/

Who can collect donated containers?
Any fundraising group, such as a charity, school, community or sporting group, can collect donations of eligible containers from the community that they can then redeem for the 10-cent refund at an approved collection point.

How do I get my charity listed on the machine?
The Network Operator will include options on Reverse Vending Machine collection points for people to direct their refunds to charities. More information about this option will be available closer to 1 December.

Can containers be crushed?
No. Do not crush containers prior to redeeming your refund. Containers, should be empty, uncrushed, unbroken and with the original label attached. Containers must be verified as eligible to receive the refund.

Where can I find more information?
For more information about Return and Earn visit: www.epa.nsw.gov.au or www.returnandeearn.org.au