



# Return and Earn Update

October 2017 #1

Welcome to *Return and Earn Update*, prepared by the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

*Return and Earn Update* will keep you informed about the upcoming NSW Container Deposit Scheme, Return and Earn, as well as opportunities in the lead up to the scheme's commencement on 1 December 2017.

As well as a new name, the scheme also has a new logo which is a modern take on the internationally recognised recycling symbol and "coins" with simple graphic representations of the main container types encompassed by the Scheme.

Return and Earn is the largest litter reduction initiative introduced in NSW and will address beverage container litter which makes up 44% of NSW litter each year and costs the community more than \$160 million to manage.

The scheme will deliver a \$282 billion benefit to the environment and community over the next 20 years and is expected to recycle more than 12.6 billion beverage containers, that would otherwise end up in landfill or litter, by providing a 10-cent refund to most containers sized between 150mL-3L from 1 December 2017.

## CDS News

### Scheme Coordinator and Network Operator

The Exchange for Change consortia and TOMRA-Cleanaway have been appointed as the Scheme Coordinator and Network Operator respectively for Return and Earn.

Return and Earn will be a customer-focussed scheme that everyone across NSW has access to.

Features of the scheme include:

- More than 500 approved collection points across NSW located in:
  - Remote towns of more than 500 people
  - Regional towns of more than 1,000 people, and



- More than 270 sites across the Greater Sydney Region
- Collection points will include more than 800 reverse vending machines to make it easy for people to return containers when out and about, as well as drop-off collection depots for larger returns such as fundraising groups

### First Supplier Arrangements

If you supply or distribute eligible beverage containers into NSW you may be classed as a 'first supplier' which means that you will have to enter into a Supply Arrangement with the Scheme Coordinator and pay a scheme fee to the Scheme Coordinator on 1 November 2017. If you have not yet done this, contact the Scheme Coordinator at <http://returnandearn.org.au> to enter one as soon as possible. You will also need to register your eligible containers with the EPA by 1 December 2017. Any unregistered eligible containers cannot be sold in NSW from scheme commencement. More information about first supplier arrangements and the fee schedule can be found at: <http://returnandearn.org.au>

### Container registrations

In NSW, suppliers of beverages will need to have their eligible containers approved by the EPA, after they enter into a Supply Arrangement with the Scheme Coordinator and a side deed with the State.

The EPA has now created an online portal <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-works.htm> for suppliers to apply for container approvals and pay an \$80 application and approval fee.

## Have your say

A variety of questions have been emailed to the CDS Implementation Team. Answers to further questions will be published in another edition of this newsletter.

### How can someone become a Collection Point Operator?

- Network Operator, TOMRA Cleanaway will enter agreements with collection point operators.
- Collection point operators could be local councils, businesses, charities or non-for-profit organisations.
- Interested parties can register their interest in being a collection point with the EPA. To register interest, visit <http://epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/cds-collection-point-operator.htm>.
- The EPA will pass on anyone interested in being a collection point to TOMRA Cleanaway.

### When will TOMRA Cleanaway select Collection Points?

- TOMRA Cleanaway is contractually obliged to have the majority of collection points open by 1 December 2017 and will roll out more collection points into 2018.
- TOMRA Cleanaway is now in the process of negotiating with organisations to be collection points and a full list of locations should be available in coming months on the Return and Earn website.

### Who is responsible for ensuring the integrity of the Scheme? What is the role of the EPA to ensure the Scheme is not subject to fraud?

The Scheme Coordinator, Exchange for Change is contractually obliged to ensure the integrity of the Scheme, including fulfilling a mandated number of independent audits of collection points and MRFs each year. The EPA will have a regulatory role when the Scheme is introduced, including having oversight of Exchange for Change's reporting and audit obligations and enforcing container registrations. The EPA will be obliged to table an annual report on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Scheme to Parliament each year, which includes details of the regulatory efforts of the EPA.

### When will the new refund mark be published?

The Scheme will require new refund marking requirements for eligible beverage containers. Due to Qld and ACT governments announcing they will introduce similar Schemes in 2018, the

NSW EPA is currently in discussions with other jurisdictions about consistent policy and implementation considerations which should reduce any duplication to the beverage industry.

The refund marking is under development. The NSW Government plans to transition in the refund mark requirements in NSW for 24 months to enable beverage suppliers to run through their existing stock and allow beverage suppliers time to include the refund mark on their new stock. This 24-month transition period will start from when the refund marking is published in the regulation, later in the year. More information will be made available on the EPA's website at [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-Scheme.htm](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/container-deposit-Scheme.htm) over the coming months. It is expected the refund mark will be published in November.

## Resources for you

### Legislative framework for the Scheme

In 2015 the NSW Government released a consultation paper on the introduction of a Scheme, which received more than 11,000 submissions. Of those submissions, more than 98% were in favour of a refund based Scheme. On 19 October 2016, legislation introducing the Scheme was passed by NSW Parliament.

The [Act](#) forms part of the legislative framework under which the Scheme will operate, and details the obligations on suppliers. The principal [Regulation](#) of the Scheme was published in March 2017.

The regulation will be further amended to prescribe the container approvals process and the refund mark to appear on containers will be published later in the year.

### Scheme Coordinator communication

Exchange for Change has launched a Return and Earn website <http://returnandearn.org.au/> which includes a range of information from the Scheme Coordinator such as: the fee structure for supplier contributions, milestone dates for beverage suppliers, and other general information. This site will be updated with more information as it becomes available.