



TASRecycle

MEDIA RELEASE
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GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION REVEALS DEEP CONCERN ABOUT DESIGN OF PROPOSED CONTAINER REFUND SCHEME

Official community consultation undertaken by the Government has revealed deep concern about the design of the Government's proposed container refund scheme.

A diverse range of stakeholders, ranging from TasCOSS to the TCCI to charity groups including the Launceston PCYC all raised serious concerns with the scheme design.

The consultation summary and individual submissions, which were quietly released onto the DPIPWE website on Friday in the midst of the COVID lockdown, show widespread concern with the Government's preferred split-responsibility model, including:

- It will introduce a "middleman" which could "impede the ability of community groups to get the maximum benefit from the Scheme";
- It is a "monopoly model" that does not maximise support for charities and community groups as much as the QLD/WA governance model, and for this reason it is suggested that Tasmania should align more with QLD/WA;
- It means "an additional layer of bureaucracy" and would result in a scheme that was "over-governed", resulting in higher costs for organisations and consumers, and potentially lower return rates;
- It varies from the model recommended to the Government by experts [Marsden Jacobs in 2018](#), without adequate explanation as to why;
- Concern about the ability of community groups and charities who wish to become a Refund Point being able to create meaningful employment opportunities and financial benefits under the current

lower margin model where they would have to sub-contract with the Network Operator, and thus not receive the full handling fee;

- Concern that the costs of the scheme such as labelling, registration of containers, potential fees for scheme involvement, as well as administrative and labour costs, would particularly disadvantage small beverage producers.

"The community consultation of the proposed Government scheme is quite critical, particularly many of the submissions by local charitable organisations, small local businesses and community respondents, it's no wonder it was quietly released", TASRecycle Chairman Ben Kearney said.

"The Government must take note of this feedback and reconsider their proposed split-governance model which will mean lower returns for community and charity groups, less local benefits and higher costs for businesses and consumers while making no difference to the environmental outcome.

"The WA scheme includes product stewardship, providing opportunities for social enterprise, benefits for community organisations and opportunities for employment at the core of its objectives alongside the environment. Tasmania does not.

"Failure to properly consider the feedback would render the consultation meaningless."

Submissions and the submission summary are available [here](#). The legislation is expected to be tabled in the Parliament in coming weeks.

TASRecycle is a not-for-profit joint initiative founded by Coca-Cola Amatil and Lion Co (owners of Boags Brewery) to ultimately be run independently by its board.

