

12 June 2019

Queensland Productivity Commission  
PO Box 12112  
George St QLD 4003



Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Container Refund Scheme

The Waste, Recycling Industry Association of Queensland (WRIQ), welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Queensland Productivity Commission's (QPC) issues paper on the Pricing Review of Container Refund Scheme.

By way of background WRIQ is the premier association for the Industry in Queensland, representing more than 95 Queensland-based organisations ranging from large multinationals through to small family operated enterprises.

The Industry provides world class infrastructure and services in the areas of waste collection, processing, recycling and disposal and in 2018 handled in excess of 10.9 million tonnes of municipal, commercial, industrial, construction, hazardous and liquid materials.

The Industry has a very strong commitment to environmental sustainability and recovered and diverted from landfill 4.9 million tonnes of waste thereby driving a circular economy. Furthermore the Industry is contributing to the future of this State through the considerable contribution to the Queensland economy including:

- Providing 11,835 jobs to Queenslanders (one in every 200 jobs) with \$825 million in wages and salaries paid;
- Contributing \$1.5 billion toward Queensland's gross state product or 50 cents in every \$100 of the Queensland economy;
- Supporting 1,516 businesses in our supply chain across the length and breadth of Queensland; and
- Contributing over \$158 million in Commonwealth and State taxes and Local Government rates and charges

WRIQ wishes to respond specifically to section 2.2 of QPC issues paper - Eligible containers.

WRIQ wishes to brief in person QPC on the issue that Container Exchange (CoEx) are operating outside of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* and the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011* underpinning the scheme's operations. More specifically, crushed and baled cans are currently being excluded by CoEx for refund despite their eligibility under the Act.

The Department of Environment and Science has confirmed their eligibility under the scheme to our Association and would do so for QPC.

The current exclusion of baled and crushed cans is inconsistent with the legislation and the specific intention of CoEx under the Act to operate consistently with established industry practices in respect to recycling. This practice is resulting in serious financial losses to Industry participants and requires immediate rectification.

WRIQ wishes to meet with you at the earliest opportunity to brief you on this issue and other matters relevant to the QPC's issues paper.

Yours sincerely

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Consulting Director – Policy

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