

MEDIA RELEASE

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JOBS TO BE SACRIFICED IF VICTORIA ADOPTS NSW CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

775 fewer Victorian jobs will be created and some charities and community organisations will be forced to pay participation fees to the waste industry if the Government adopts the NSW model for Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme.

The Victorian Government today released a discussion paper saying its preferred model was similar to the scheme that operates in NSW. Significantly, we note the recognition of the need for multiple networks operators which will enable greater community group participation.

“The Container Deposit Scheme is a great initiative for Victoria, but the differences between the two types of schemes operating interstate are stark,” said VicRecycle Director Jeff Maguire.

- A Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme, which prioritises jobs, community benefits and a level playing field for all to take part. This scheme, administered by a not-for-profit coordinator, operates in QLD, WA, and addresses the shortcomings of the NSW scheme launched in 2017 by engaging multiple network operators from a broad cross-section of the community and business.
- The NSW Waste Industry (Monopoly) Scheme, which prioritises profits for one or a small number of large multinational waste companies.

“The Community (Producer Responsibility) Schemes in Queensland and Western Australia are the most transparent, the most cost-efficient, deliver the most jobs and have the greatest benefit for community organisations,” said Mr Maguire.

“That’s why its been adopted by the two most recent state governments to roll-out a CDS – Queensland and Western Australia.

“We’re encouraged by the fact the Victorian government has recognised the benefits of multiple network operators, as is the case in all schemes in operation in Australia other than NSW.

“The NSW scheme prioritises profits for one or a small number of large multinational waste companies, forcing charities to pay part of their handling fee to the waste operator to take part.

“This doesn’t occur in QLD, SA, WA or the NT.

“Community organisations acting as refund points in WA and QLD gain 6.5 cents per container collected. In NSW, its 3.5 - 4.5 cents.

“Schemes in QLD and WA are seeing millions of dollars flow through to community organisations, charities and sporting clubs – and hundreds of jobs created.

“Victoria needs a scheme that is open to greater participation by small business and local community groups, increases recycling and has benefits that flow through to all Victorian communities.

“We urge Victorians to have their say on the type of container deposit scheme they want to see as part of community consultation.”

Under a Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme, independent modelling shows:

- **1220 jobs will be created across the state**, compared with approximately 445 if a Waste (Monopoly) Model is implemented.
- **Victorian Community Organisations** (including football clubs, charities and other community organisations) will benefit from \$64m per year in new revenue once the CDS is fully operational.
- **Small and medium sized businesses** (including local businesses and pubs) will stand to gain \$88 million per annum.

VicRecycle has been established by the beverage industry to advocate for a Community (Producer Responsibility) Scheme.