

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **GOVERNMENT MUST GUARANTEE MAXIMUM BENEFITS FOR CHARITIES, COMMUNITY ORGS & SPORTING CLUBS IN CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME**

The Victorian Government's announcement of its final Container Deposit Scheme design model is a step in the right direction, but it must clarify that charities, community organisations, sporting clubs and small businesses will be able to access maximum benefits from the scheme.

In WA, QLD and SA, these organisations are able to take part as network operators, earning the full 6.5 cent per container handling fee, by contracting directly with the scheme coordinator.

This is in addition to any 10 cent refund donated by a consumer returning their containers.

In NSW, these organisations are forced to subcontract to the monopoly network operator rather than the scheme coordinator, and receive 3.5c – 4.5c per container, plus any 10 cent refund from consumers.

“Minister D’Ambrosio’s announcement today is positive in ensuring community organisations should have a key direct operational role to play in the CDS,” said VicRecycle Chair Paul Klymenko.

“We’re hopeful community organisations, charities and sporting clubs will be able to directly take part in the scheme as collection point network operators and not have to subcontract through a third party.

“We look forward to the government making this commitment.

“If Victorian charities, community groups and sporting clubs are forced to sub-contract to take part as operators in the CDS, they will lose up to \$50 million in revenue.

“We’re also concerned that an over-reliance on unstaffed reverse vending machines will mean less jobs for Victorians.”

Mr Klymenko said it is positive that the Government would welcome multiple network operators taking part in the CDS if it meant the best outcome for Victorians.

“A monopoly operator won’t benefit Victorians – but an open market where everyone can take part will,” he said.

“We would like the government to consider mandating a minimum quota for community organisations participating as network operators running collection points.

“The government should also ensure that the Scheme Coordinator is not for profit, so it cannot profit from the scheme.

“Industry looks forward to working with the Government to help deliver a CDS that maximises recovery and recycling of beverage containers and delivers for the entire Victorian community.”

More information about the differences and benefits of the various schemes for community organisations is available at [vicrecycle.com.au](http://vicrecycle.com.au).