

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEME

972. Hon SALLY TALBOT to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:

I seek more information about the government's proposed container deposit scheme.

- (1) Who will administer the scheme?
- (2) When will the scheme commence?
- (3) What return rates are predicted in years one to five?
- (4) Which containers will be covered by the scheme?
- (5) Where will collection depots be located?
- (6) Who will own the recyclable material?

Hon DONNA FARAGHER replied:

I thank the member for some notice of the question.

- (1) It is intended that the Western Australian scheme will be similar to that of New South Wales. This provides that the Minister for Environment appoints a scheme coordinator to ensure that a statewide network of collection depots is established.
- (2) The scheme will commence by mid-2018.
- (3) The government has had regard for the return rates for the only jurisdictions with existing schemes—South Australia and the Northern Territory—in predicting the likely performance of a container deposit scheme in Western Australia. The return rate for eligible containers in South Australia was 76 per cent in 2015–16. Northern Territory return rates have increased from around 20 per cent prior to the commencement of a container deposit scheme to 60.88 per cent for the first quarter of 2016.

Both jurisdictions have followed a generally increasing trend in recovery rates and have the lowest proportion of containers as litter as measured by the National Litter Index.
- (4) The scheme will target beverage containers most commonly seen as litter, helping to reduce litter, boost recycling figures and protect our environment. Examples of beverage containers to be eligible for the refund include soft drink cans and bottles; bottled water, both plastic and glass containers; small flavoured milk drink containers; beer cans and bottles; and sports drink and spirit-based mixed drink containers.
- (5) There is a range of collection infrastructure for a container deposit scheme, including collection depots, retailers and reverse vending machines. Collection infrastructure can provide recycling for more than one material. Collection infrastructure requirements will be assessed and designed to suit local circumstances, and are likely to include a network of collection depots and reverse vending machines operating across Western Australia.
- (6) The owner of the recycled materials will depend on the model adopted. The intention of this government is to finalise the scheme framework with input from stakeholders and develop a contemporary design that is a best fit for all Western Australians.