



Supporting recycling, reducing waste, and returning value to communities

# Containers for Change Expansion in Western Australia

Containers for Change delivers environmental, economic and community benefits across Western Australia. Expanding the initiative to include even more beverages strengthens those outcomes for everyone.

## Why it matters

Containers for Change was introduced in October 2020 and delivers meaningful environmental and social benefits:

- Over 5.4 billion containers have been recovered for recycling
- More than \$21 million has been donated to community groups, charities and schools
- Over 846 new jobs were created, including 127 for people with disability
- The State's recycling rate for eligible beverage containers increased from 34% to 65%.

## More than just litter reduction

While reducing litter remains an important outcome, Western Australia's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has always been designed to deliver the following broader environmental, economic and community benefits:

- High-value recycling that keeps materials in use, creating a stronger circular economy for Western Australia
- Provide opportunities for social enterprise and benefits for community organisations
- Ensure that first responsible suppliers of beverage products take product stewardship responsibility
- Create more opportunities for employment.

## High-quality glass recycling

Glass returned through the scheme is 'source separated', meaning it is cleaner and more suitable for remanufacturing than material collected through mixed kerbside recycling.

- The 2024–25 recycling rate for glass containers already in the scheme is nearly at 80%
- In 2024–25, more than 36,000 tonnes of glass was processed for remanufacture into new bottles, supporting Australian manufacturing.

## How the scheme is funded

The CDS operates under a producer responsibility model, where beverage suppliers fund the scheme based on the number of containers they supply:

- The scheme funds the full recycling system including the 10-cent refund and the collection, transport, sorting and recycling of containers
- The Economic Regulation Authority found that the average price increase to containers following the introduction of the WA CDS was between 3.3 - 7.5 cents for alcoholic beverages
- Participation in the scheme is mandatory for anyone supplying eligible beverages into the Western Australia market, not just Western Australian-based producers.



## Expansion from 1 July 2026

The State Government is committed to a single, unified scheme for all beverage containers. From 1 July 2026, the scheme will expand to include wine, spirits and almost all beverage containers.

This expansion will:

- Add approximately 200 million containers to the scheme each year
- Cover almost all beverage containers between 150 mL and 3 L
- Deliver a more complete, consistent and effective recycling system.

## Governance and oversight

The scheme is legislated and regulated by the WA Government and delivered by an independent, not-for-profit Scheme Coordinator, WA Return Recycle Renew (WARRRL).

To ensure transparency, accountability and strong governance, the scheme operates with:

- Clear rules set in legislation
- Defined reporting and compliance requirements
- Strong WA Government oversight.

These requirements extend to the composition of the Scheme Coordinator's board and require at least five directors to be independent of the large beverage industry, with at least one director representing the small beverage industry.

One of the independent board members represents the community and, along with the board chair, is appointed with Ministerial approval to ensure decisions are made in the broader public interest and to deliver community benefits.

A recent parliamentary inquiry in Queensland recognised the strong legislative safeguards imposed by the Western Australian scheme in relation to governance, transparency and performance.

## Supply Agreements

The Supply Agreement is one of several agreements, collectively referred to as scheme agreements, that underpin the CDS. These agreements are required under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (Container Deposit Scheme) Regulations 2019.

A template of the Supply Agreement is published on the WARRRL website to support transparency.

A single, standardised Supply Agreement applies to all suppliers. Its provisions are consistent, regardless of company size or the volume of containers supplied, ensuring a level playing field across the scheme.

The Supply Agreement also incorporates requirements aligned with broader legislative frameworks, including work health and safety and modern slavery laws.

These are standard contractual provisions reflecting obligations under State and Commonwealth legislation.

## Clear, planned and transparent implementation

Since 2022, there has been extensive consultation on the planned expansion scheduled for 1 July 2026.

This approach was planned, transparent and well-signalled, aimed at giving businesses ample time to prepare for the changes.

- Activities included: A six-month public consultation period from 1 December 2022 to 1 June 2023 on a public discussion paper
- Four regional workshops to support consultation in April and May 2023
- Formation of a CDS expansion stakeholder advisory group with meetings in May, June and July 2023
- Consultation with national and state-based supplier peak bodies from across Australia from September 2025 to December 2025



- Further CDS expansion stakeholder advisory group meetings in October 2025, November 2025 and March 2026
- An eight-week public consultation period on the proposed draft Container Deposit Scheme expansion amendment regulations from 20 November 2025 to 18 January 2026
- Workshops for new suppliers commencing 11 November 2025, followed by workshops in Albany, Bunbury, Margaret River and the Swan Valley
- Monthly expansion webinars hosted by the Scheme Coordinator to support new scheme suppliers.

### Industry Support

The expansion has been shaped through extensive consultation with the Western Australian wine industry, including peak bodies and producers.

Specific measures resulting from feedback has been developed with industry to reflect the specific needs of the Western Australia wine industry.

Measures include:

- Reduced reporting obligations for suppliers of fewer than 150,000 units
- Streamlined container approval processes
- A three-year transition period for labelling requirements
- Extended transition periods of up to 10 years for wines and spirits aged before sale.

### National alignment and consistency

Western Australia is part of a broader national shift toward more consistent container deposit schemes across Australia.

This means many producers are already participating in container deposit schemes in other jurisdictions.

- Queensland has included wine and spirit bottles since November 2023
- The Northern Territory will include them from 1 July 2026
- New South Wales and South Australia plan to expand their schemes in 2027

Western Australia supports a national CDS portal to harmonise scheme requirements across jurisdictions and reduce the administrative impact on suppliers.

This work will benefit all suppliers in Australia who supply into more than one jurisdiction.

### Further information:

Further information about the WA Container Deposit Scheme, including the expansion from 1 July 2026, is available at: [WA.gov.au](http://WA.gov.au).

WARRRL, the Scheme Coordinator, is holding regular online information sessions for new First Responsible Suppliers.

These sessions cover the CDS, the implications of the expansion, and progress towards 1 July 2026.

Enquiries may be directed to WARRRL at: [schemeexpansion2026queries@warrl.com.au](mailto:schemeexpansion2026queries@warrl.com.au)

For information about governance and oversight of the scheme, please contact the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation on: [cds@dwer.wa.gov.au](mailto:cds@dwer.wa.gov.au).