



MEDIA ALERT

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CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE SCHEME LAUNCH DEFERRED DUE TO COVID-19

The launch of Western Australia's container deposit scheme, Containers for Change, has been deferred due to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 and its expected disruption to refund points. The State Government will make a final decision on a new commencement date in August, with a view to launching the scheme in either November 2020 or June 2021.

Today, the scheme operator Western Australia Return Recycle Renew Ltd (WARRRL), announced the 2 June 2020 launch date would not go ahead. WARRRL cites public health concerns, poor economic climate for Refund Point operators, lower container circulation and social distancing as key reasons why a six or 12-month delay of the scheme's launch will be observed.

Containers for Change spokesperson, Tim Cusack said that the scheme operators, the State Government and relevant stakeholders are working closely together to develop an alternative date that will provide the best launch opportunity for Refund Point operators and the West Australian community.

"I'd like to thank all of our network partners for their unwavering support and commitment as we worked towards launching on 2 June 2020.

"Our focus will now be on supporting all of our operators over the coming months as we look to mobilise and launch Containers for Change on a new date.

"We have been overwhelmed by the public support for the introduction of Containers for Change. Prior to the impact and rapid escalation of COVID-19, we were on track to deliver the most diverse and accessible container deposit scheme in Australia. This remains our commitment.

"The health and safety of our network participants and the wider community is paramount, and as such we support the decision announced today by the State Government.

"We look forward to working with all of our partners and the community as we mobilise to launch Containers for Change in Western Australia on a new date," Mr Cusack said.

WARRRL will continue to work closely with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and the Minister for Environment, Hon. Stephen Dawson regarding Containers for Change and the setting of a new commencement date.

Please visit Containers for Change for more information: www.containersforchange.com.au

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