

Container Deposit Scheme Quarterly Report

1 July to 30 September 2015

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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1 Introduction

The Northern Territory Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) commenced on 3 January 2012 with the aim to reduce beverage container litter and increase resource recovery across the Northern Territory (NT).

Five CDS coordinators are approved to operate in the Northern Territory: Envirobank NT, Marine Stores, NT Coordinators, NT Recycling Solutions and Statewide Recycling. Their role is to work with the collection depots and beverage manufacturers to recycle, reuse or appropriately dispose of approved containers.

Territorians can collect 10 cents in return for each approved container delivered to an approved collection depot. During the July to September 2015 quarter collection depots were open in Berrimah, Pinelands, Wagait Beach, Winnellie, Katherine, Elliot, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek and a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) operated at Charles Darwin University.

Since the CDS commenced, approval has been granted for the supply of over 5 842 products in regulated containers. During the quarter 71 container supply approval applications from 19 companies were granted, representing 160 products approved for supply into the Northern Territory in the period.

1.1 Report outcomes summary

Key points of this report covering the activities of the CDS in the July to September 2015 quarter are:

1. Of the 44 100 512 approved containers sold in the Northern Territory, 21 580 711 were returned to CDS coordinators.
2. This represents a container return rate of 48.94%, a decrease of 1.32% on the previous July to September 2014 quarterly rate of 50.25% of containers reused, recycled, or appropriately disposed of through the CDS¹. This also represents a decrease of 5.3% from the previous quarter April to June 2015.
3. Return rates of containers to coordinators have generally followed an increasing trend since the scheme commenced in 2012. The reduction in the return rate for this quarter when compared to the April to June 2015 is due in part to an increase in the number of containers sold during the period.
4. Collection Depots redeemed 21 114 921 of the containers returned during the quarter equating to over \$2.11 million in refunds to families, schools, community organisations and commercial operators in the NT.

1.2 Legislation

The relevant legislation is the *Environment Protection (Beverage Container and Plastic Bags) Act* ('the Act'). The regulatory oversight for the Act lies with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

¹ Note the previous April to June 2014 quarter return rate has been revised to 50.25%. Previous data have erroneously duplicated container supply data for one coordinator in this quarter alone.

1.3 Approved refund markings

All regulated and approved beverage containers sold in the Northern Territory must bear either of the following markings:

- 10c Refund at SA/NT collection depots in State/Territory of purchase or
- 10c Refund at collection depots in NT.

2 Key definitions

<i>Containers redeemed</i>	The number of approved containers that have been accepted by collection depots to give a 10 cent refund to the community.
<i>Containers returned</i>	The number of containers that have been aggregated and returned to CDS coordinators from collection points.
<i>HDPE (high-density polyethylene)</i>	The material that some plastic juice containers are made from. Classification of HDPE under the resin identification coding (RIC) system established in 1988 is represented by the number 2 embedded in the container.
<i>LPB (liquid paper board)</i>	Materials utilised in packaging of beverages such as popper juices. LPB also includes aseptic which is the packaging of beverages in a sterile container, used for example in long life <i>ultra-high-temperature (UHT)</i> processed beverages.
<i>Other material</i>	Material types may include steel, foil sachets, and other plastics including biodegradable, photo-sensitive and plant-based plastics. This includes other resin types classified under the resin identification coding system that are represented by the number 7 embedded in the container.
<i>PET (polyethylene terephthalate)</i>	The material that some plastic beverage containers are made from (for example, water bottles). Classification of PET under the resin identification coding system is represented by the number 1 embedded in the container.
<i>Return rates</i>	The total percentage of container numbers that have been returned to Coordinators in relation to the total number of containers sold in the Northern Territory.
<i>RVM (reverse vending machine)</i>	A device that accepts used (empty) beverage containers and returns money to the user. Some RVM only accept aluminium and plastic containers.

3 Coordinator sales and returns

During the quarter 44 100 512 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory with 21 580 711 returned to CDS coordinators (Table 1).

This represents a total return rate of 48.94%, which indicates that of all containers sold in the Northern Territory, 48.94% were reused, recycled, or appropriately disposed of through the CDS.

Table 1: Number of containers returned by material type to CDS Coordinators

Container Material	Containers Sold	Containers Returned to CDS Coordinators	Container Return Rate (%)
Aluminium	18 150 144	10 390 361	57.25
PET	10 812 569	3 631 857	33.59
HDPE	779 852	194 393	22.93
Glass	12 436 320	6 560 866	52.76
LPB	1 903 903	801 593	42.10
Steel/ Other	17 724	1 641	9.26
TOTAL	44 100 512	21 580 711	48.94

Of the major material type streams, the return rates for each material type for the quarter are presented in Figure 1.

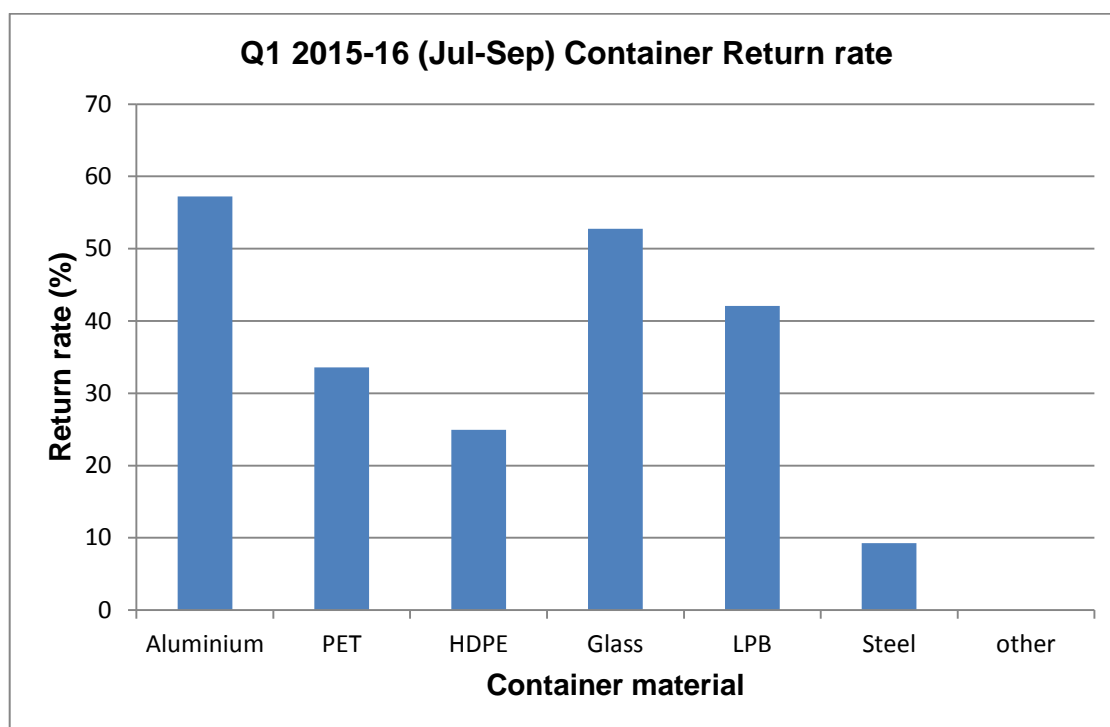


Figure 1: Return rate by material type for the quarter

3.1 Quarterly return rates since commencement

The CDS has seen an overall increase in return rates since the scheme commenced in 2012 (Figure 2).

The number of containers returned increased in the July to September 2015 quarter compared to the April to June 2015 quarter. However, due to the increase in containers sold during the July to September 2015 period, the return rate was lower than the previous quarter.

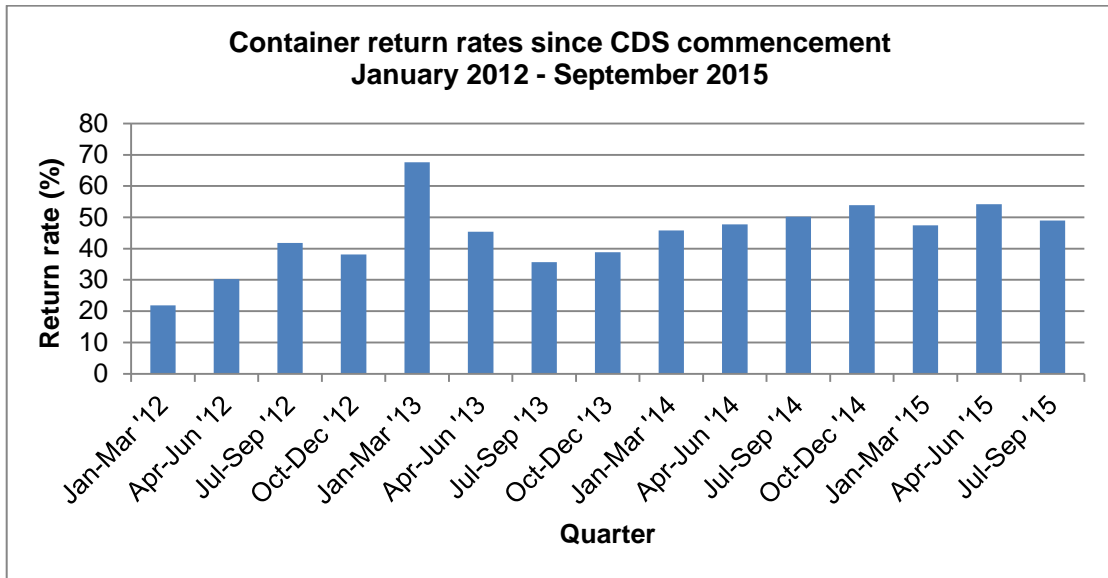


Figure 2: Container return rates by quarter since commencement of the CDS

4 Containers redeemed at collection depots

An approved collection depot is the public face of the CDS, where the community can claim their 10 cent redemption for approved containers. The operator of an approved collection depot pays the refund amount to the consumer for an empty approved container.

The collection depot then delivers the containers to CDS coordinators who pay the refund amount and a handling fee relating to the sorting, cleaning, packing and processing of the container to ensure that it can be reused, recycled, or otherwise appropriately disposed of.

Over the quarter a total of 21 114 921 containers were redeemed at collection depots (Table 2). This equates to over \$2.11 million in refunds to families, schools, community organisations and commercial operators in the NT².

² Not all containers redeemed at a collection depot are returned to a CDS coordinator in the same reporting period in which they are redeemed.

Table 2: Number of containers redeemed by material type at collection depots

Container Material	Containers redeemed at collection depots
Aluminium	10 471 896
PET	3 401 392
HDPE	201 692
Glass	6 266 253
LPB	764 377
Steel/ Other	9 311
TOTAL	21 114 921

5 Redemption by region

Collection depots operating in the greater Darwin region include the depots located in Berrimah, Charles Darwin University (RVM), Pinelands and Winnellie. Areas outside of Darwin include depots in Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Elliot and a mobile RVM operating at Wagait Beach.

Over the quarter containers were redeemed in both the Greater Darwin area and outside regions as follows (Table 3 and Figure 3):

- 15.76 million in the Greater Darwin region
- 5.35 million outside the Greater Darwin region.

Table 3: Collection depot redemptions by region and material type

Container Material	Container redemption distribution		Total containers redeemed
	Greater Darwin Region	Outside Greater Darwin	
Aluminium	7 462 731	3 009 165	10 471 896
PET	2 577 520	823 872	3 401 392
HDPE	154 709	46 983	201 692
Glass	5 014 928	1 251 325	6 266 253
LPB	543 513	220 864	764 377
Steel/ Other	9 311	0	9 311
TOTAL	1 5762 712	5 352 209	21 114 921

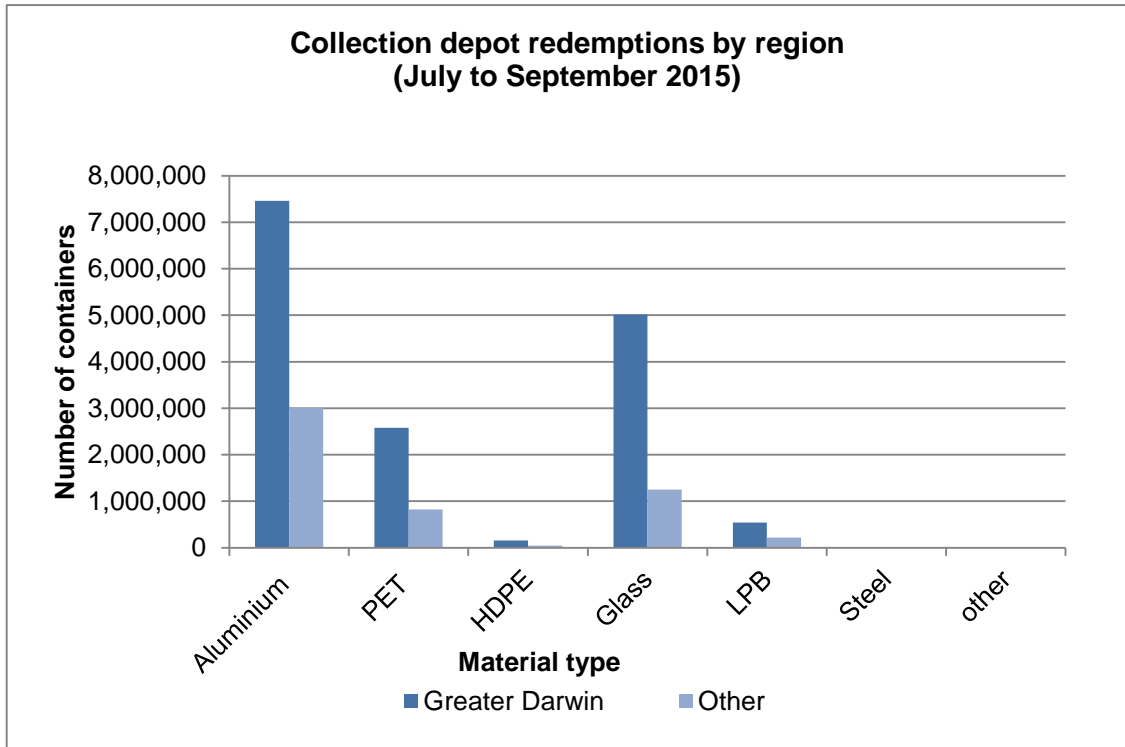


Figure 3: Collection depot redemptions by region and material type