

## **Container Deposit Scheme Quarterly Report**

1 April to 30 June 2016

**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).

During the quarter, four CDS coordinators were approved to operate in the Northern Territory: Envirobank NT, Marine Stores, Statewide Recycling and NT Coordinators. A fifth CDS coordinator, NT Recycling Solutions, ceased operating as a CDS coordinator during the quarter. CDS coordinators work with the collection depots and beverage suppliers 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 April to June 2016 quarter collection depots were open in Berrimah, Pinelands, Winnellie, Katherine, Elliot, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek, a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) operated at Charles Darwin University, and a mobile collection service visited Wagait Beach and Jabiru communities.

Since the CDS commenced, approval has been granted for the supply of over 6 000 products in regulated containers. During the quarter, 64 container supply approval applications from 28 companies were granted, representing 249 products that were approved for supply into the Northern Territory.

### 1.1 Report outcomes summary

Key outcomes for CDS activities in the April to June 2016 quarter are:

1. Of the 37 738 457 approved containers sold in the Northern Territory, 21 053 267 were returned to CDS coordinators.
2. This represents a container return rate of 55.79%, an increase on the quarterly return rate of 54.24% achieved in April to June 2015, but a decrease from the previous quarter January to March 2016.
3. The annual return rate continues to increase since the scheme commenced in 2012 with an annual return rate of 54.21% in June 2016 compared to an annual return rate of 51.59% in June 2015.
4. A total of 21 925 546 containers were redeemed at collection depots during the April to June 2016 quarter, representing over \$2.19 million in refunds to families, schools, community organisations and business in the NT.

### 1.2 Legislation

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

### 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 37 738 457 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory with 21 053 267 returned to CDS coordinators (Table 1).

This represents a container return rate of 55.79%, which indicates that of all containers sold in the Northern Territory during the quarter, 55.79% 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	15 741 424	9 547 270	60.65
PET	8 034 075	3 705 753	46.13
HDPE	542 276	274 402	50.60
Glass	11 371 895	6 443 474	56.66
LPB	2 040 819	1 082 366	53.04
Steel/ Other	7 968	2	0.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37 738 457</b>	<b>21 053 267</b>	<b>55.79</b>

The return rate achieved during the quarter for each major material type is presented in Figure 1.

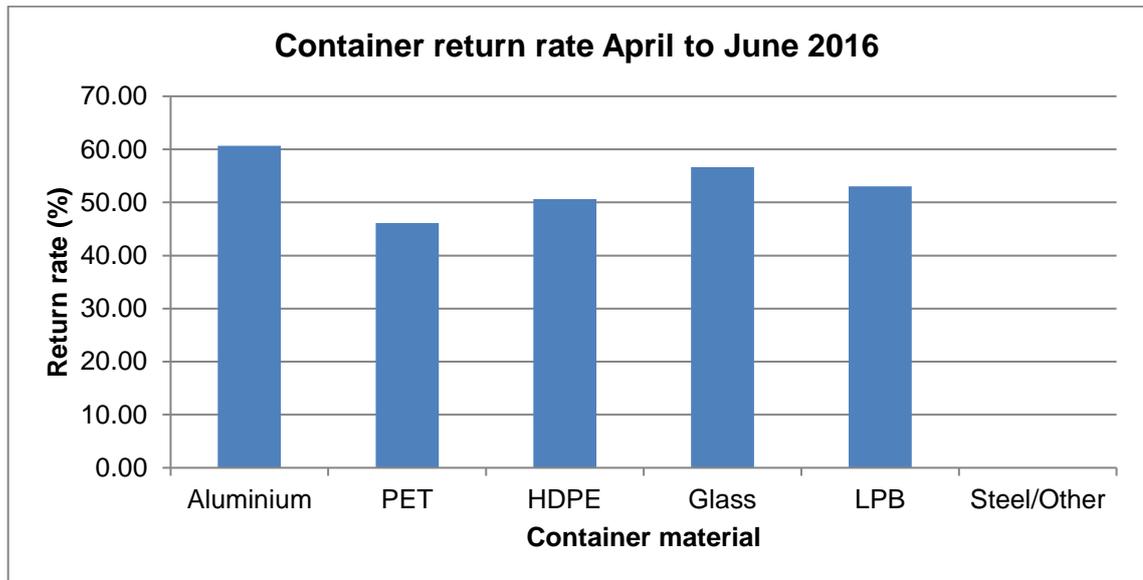


Figure 1: Return rate by material type for the quarter

### 3.1 Quarterly return rates in since CDS commenced

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

The number of containers returned increased substantially in the April to June 2016 quarter when compared to the same quarter in each year since 2012.

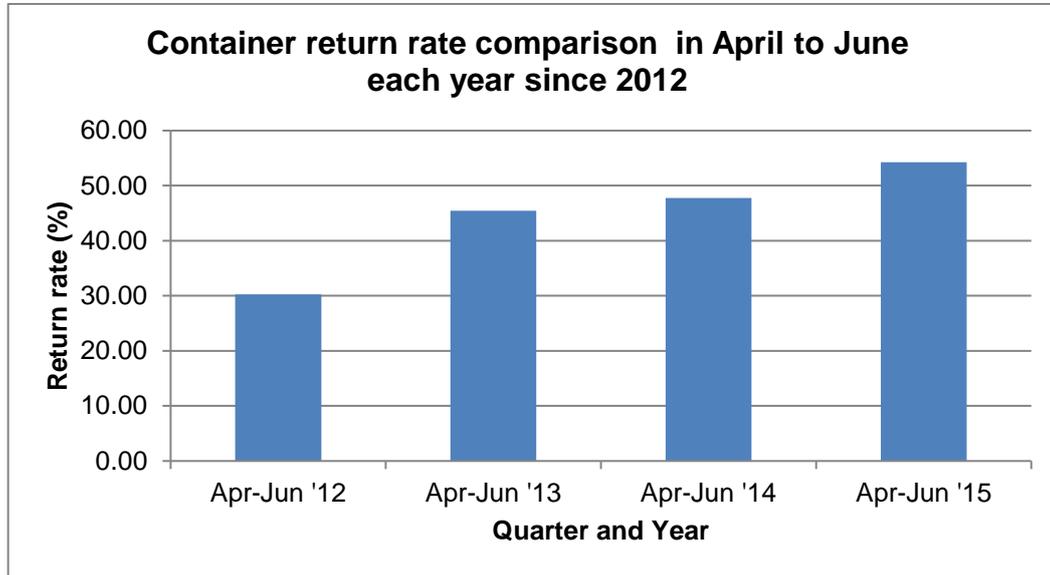


Figure 2: Container return rates for the April-June quarter since CDS commenced in 2012

## 4 Containers redeemed at collection depots

An approved collection depot is the public face of the CDS, where the community can take approved containers to redeem the 10 cent refund. 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 a fee for the refund and handling costs relating to the sorting, cleaning, packing and processing of the container so it can be reused, recycled, or otherwise appropriately disposed of.

Over the quarter a total of 21 925 546 containers were redeemed at collection depots (Table 2). This equates to over \$2.19 million in refunds to families, schools, community organisations and commercial operators in the NT.

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

Container Material	Containers redeemed at collection depots
Aluminium	10 053 616
PET	3 835 833
HDPE	246 555
Glass	6 812 706
LPB	959 273
Steel/ Other	17 563
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21 925 546</b>

## 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 collection unit that scheduled services during the quarter to Wagait Beach and Jabiru communities.

Over the quarter 16 833 608 containers were redeemed in the greater Darwin region and 5 091 938 containers were redeemed outside of greater Darwin (Table 3).

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	7 274 804	2 778 812	10 053 616
PET	2 842 169	993 664	3 835 833
HDPE	168 564	77 991	246 555
Glass	5 862 154	950 552	6 812 706
LPB	673 358	285 915	959 273
Steel/ Other	12 559	5 004	17 563
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 833 608</b>	<b>5 091 938</b>	<b>21 925 546</b>

Of all of the containers redeemed in the Northern Territory during the April to June 2016, 76.78% were redeemed in the greater Darwin region, and 23.22% were redeemed outside of greater Darwin (Figure 3).

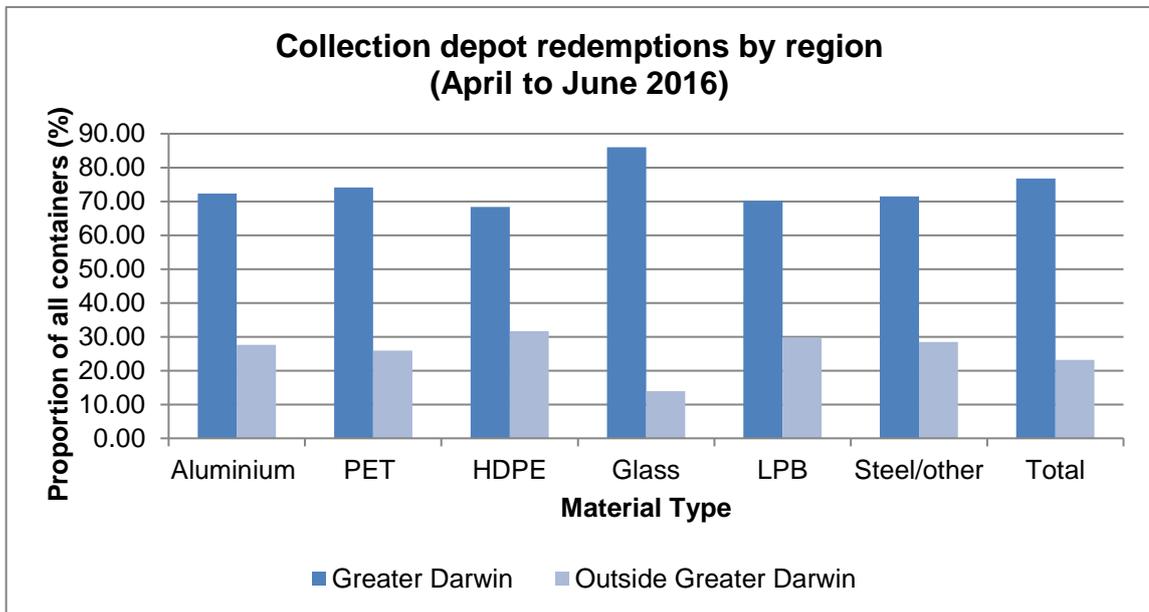


Figure 3: Collection depot redemptions by region and material type