



Northern  
Territory  
Government

TERRITORY  
CASH FOR  
CONTAINERS



greening the  
Territory

A Territory Government initiative

# Cash for Containers quarterly report

1 April to 30 June 2012



## Chief Executive Foreword

I am pleased to present the second quarterly report of the Northern Territory's Cash for Containers program for the period 1 April to 30 June 2012.

The aim of Cash for Containers is to help to reduce litter, increase recycling efforts and help in achieving a reduction of waste going to the Territory's landfills by 50% by 2020.

This report shows that one in three approved containers was redeemed through Collection Depots and Coordinators across the major centres of the Territory. The previous quarter's report it was one in four containers being redeemed.

There has been a 52% increase in container redemptions by the community, compared to the first quarter of the program's implementation. This is evidence that the program is working, Territorians are supportive of it and Cash for Containers is growing across the major centres of the Territory.

Key to this is the significant increase in access to Collection Depots in areas outside of the Darwin region. This equates to an increase in container redemptions of over 113% from the first quarter to second quarter in areas including Katherine, Alice Springs, Finke and Tennant Creek.

During the second quarter 8.67 million containers were redeemed in the Darwin region, including Palmerston and the northern suburbs, which is a 37.4% increase on the first quarter.

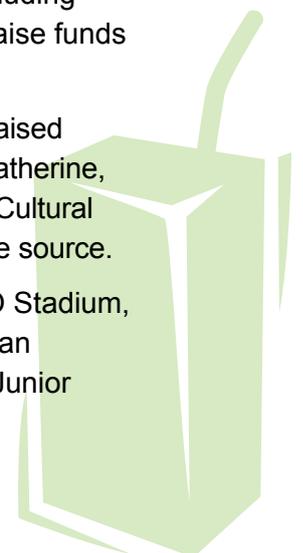
Growth in the number of containers taken to Collection Depots is expected to continue as the scheme continues to expand into new areas including regional and remote areas. A number of new Collection Depots have opened during this quarter, including Tennant Creek, Elliot, and a Reverse Vending Machine (RVM) at Parap. A mobile collection system has also been in operation in Wagait Shire and more regional and remote areas such as Adelaide River are to be serviced in the coming months.

Consistent with the environmental expectations of Cash for Containers, Coordinators have reported that 100% of returned material is either being recycled or reused and not going to landfill.

The program is also being embraced by a range of organisations, including charities, schools, sporting clubs and not-for-profit organisations, to raise funds at Territory events and facilities.

The YMCA as operators of the Palmerston Water Park is using funds raised from its Cash for Containers collections for special youth projects. In Katherine, Godinyamayin, the company operating the recently opened Katherine Cultural Precinct will use funds raised through Cash for Containers as an income source.

At the recent AFL game between Melbourne and Port Adelaide at TIO Stadium, AFL NT used Cash for Containers as a fundraiser. This initiative was an overwhelming success with the proceeds going towards the AFL NT Junior Thunder program.



Freds Pass Rural Show and The Tropical Garden Spectacular and Top End Sustainable Living Festival, are further examples of independent organisations who are getting involved with Cash for Containers by collecting containers to raise funds for their organisation or a charity/cause of their choice.

The Cash for Containers School Fundraising Grants program has been a great success with 75 schools receiving grants to purchase trailers. The trailers will help schools fundraise through the program by providing for the storage and transport of approved containers to a Collection Depot. Government and non government schools from right across the Territory received grants, including 28 schools in Darwin, 22 in Palmerston and the rural areas, 17 in Central Australia, 7 in the Katherine region and one in the Barkly.

Additional infrastructure grants have been awarded for the establishment of Collection Points/Depots in Nhulunbuy, Katherine, Maningrida and Apatula. Scouts Australia was awarded funding for the establishment of Collection Points in Howard Springs, Humpty Doo, Nhulunbuy, Alice Springs and Katherine. The Scouts will also be creating a mobile collection service to enable them to collect containers at community events in these areas.

Grants were awarded to assist in the establishment of a Collection Depot in Nhulunbuy, and a mobile Collection Depot service that will provide access to the scheme for the Jabiru, Wadeye and Mataranka Communities.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) continues to engage with stakeholders and liaise with landowners to expand the scheme across the Territory. A range of prominent events and attractions are being evaluated including: Fog Hollows; Chan Building Contemporary Art space; Territory Wildlife Park; Alice Springs Desert Park; Defence of Darwin Experience and the Darwin Aviation Heritage Centre. It is envisaged that the proceeds from these events and locations have the potential to raise funds for a wide range of Arts organisations, Animal Welfare organisations, the Royal Artillery Association and the Aviation Heritage Society of the Northern Territory.

New Collection Depots are also set to open in the near future at Millingimbi, and at Karama and Palmerston Shopping Centres, with a new RVM set to become operational in Nightcliff.

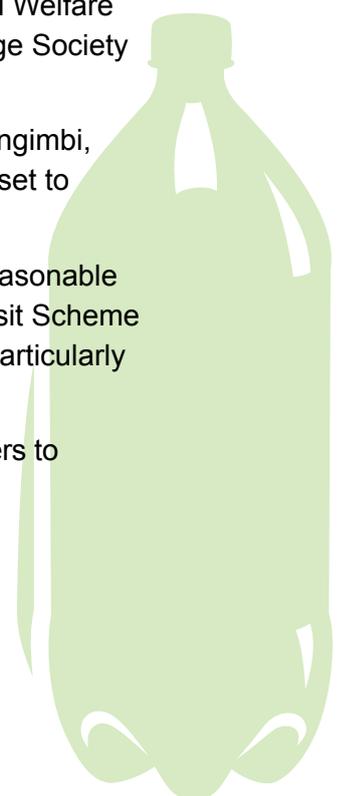
To enable a greater expansion of the scheme and the provision of reasonable access across the Territory I have been liaising with Container Deposit Scheme Coordinators to assist in the timely implementation of the program, particularly in a remote context.

I encourage Territorians to continue to participate in Cash for Containers to improve our wonderful environment and as a means of raising funds.

**Jim Grant**

Chief Executive

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport

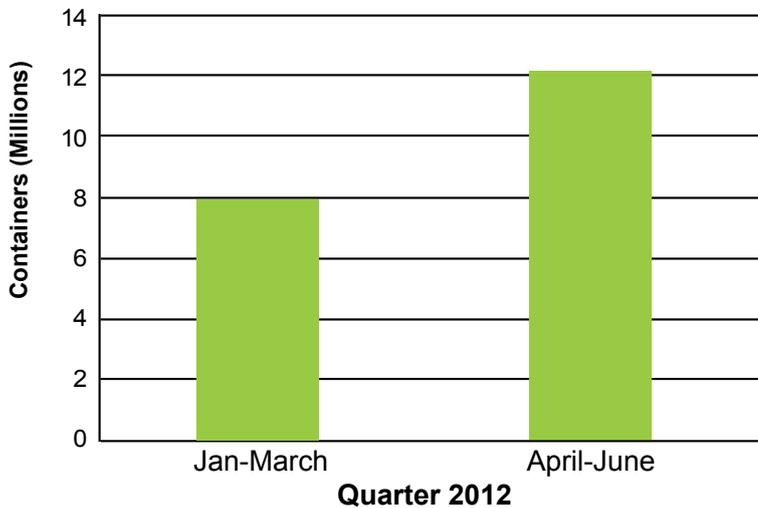


## Highlights: April to June 2012

The following are highlights for the April to June 2012 quarterly report on the Cash for Containers program:

- There has been a 31.31% redemption rate across all eligible containers and material types in this quarter, which equates to an increase of 52% on last quarter;
- More than 12 million containers were processed through Collection Depots this quarter (up from 8 million last quarter);
- More than 38 million approved containers have been sold in the Territory this quarter;
- There has been a marked increase in the number of containers returned – up from 1 in 4 containers redeemed last quarter to nearly 1 in 3 containers redeemed this quarter;
- More than \$1.2 million was paid out in deposits;
- An increase in container redemptions of over 113% in areas outside of the Greater Darwin region from the first quarter; and
- 100% of all containers collected through the scheme were recycled or re-used.

### *Container redemptions by quarter*



## Purpose of this report

The purpose of the Cash for Containers quarterly report is to outline the performance of the program, and its trends in return rates and redemptions over each quarter. The broader, operational issues, administration and efficiency issues will be addressed in the annual report.

The quarterly report is based on information that is required to be provided under the *Environment Protection (Beverage Container and Plastic Bags) Act 2011* (NT) as part of the conditions of approval of Cash for Containers participants.

Collection Depots and Coordinators are required to report on a range of scheme data including return rates, redemptions at Collection Depots and the end fate of materials. This quarterly report is based on the aggregated information from these returns.



## Introduction

Cash for Containers commenced on 3 January 2012. The aim of the program is to reduce beverage container litter, increase resource recovery and contribute to a 50% reduction in waste going to landfill in the Territory.

Five Coordinators have been approved to operate through Cash for Containers: NT Coordinators, Envirobank NT, Statewide Recycling, NT Recycling Services (NTRS) and Marine Stores.

Coordinators are required to have waste management arrangements with beverage manufacturers and importers for the collection, sorting and aggregation of empty containers. The role of Coordinators is to work with the Collection Depots and industry to recycle, reuse or appropriately dispose of the containers. It is at these Collection Depots where Territorians can receive 10 cents in return for each approved container.

Supply Approvals have been issued for over 3,500 containers under the program representing around 150 manufacturers and importers of beverages who sell in the Northern Territory.

Collection Depots are currently operating in Berrimah, Pinelands, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Elliot and Finke as well as mobile Collection Depots and systems which are set to expand over the coming months.

Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) are currently in operation at Parap and Charles Darwin University. In addition, mobile Collection Depots continue to operate in areas around Darwin and the rural area.

Further information on these locations is on page 13 of this report.



## Key definitions

There is a need to clarify some key definitions that will be used in this report, and subsequent quarterly reports, which are:

- *Containers returned* refers to the number of containers that have been aggregated and returned to Coordinators from Collection Depots;
- *Return rates* refer to the total percentage of container numbers that have been returned to Coordinators in relation to the total number of containers sold in the Territory;
- *Containers redeemed* refers to the number of approved containers that have been delivered to Collection Depots to receive a 10 cent refund by members of the public, Collection Points or commercial entities; and
- *Redemption rate* is the percentage of containers redeemed to Collection Depots compared to beverage container sales in the Northern Territory;

In relation to technical terms relating to certain material types:

- PET (polyethylene terephthalate) refers to the product that plastic beverage containers are made from (for example, water bottles);
- HDPE (high-density polyethylene) refers to materials such as some juice containers;
- LPB is liquid paper board which is utilised in the packaging of beverages such as popper juices. LPB also includes ASEPTIC which is the packaging of a beverage in a sterile container, used for example in long life UHT beverages; and
- Other containers refers to steel, foil sachets and other plastics including biodegradable, photo-sensitive and plant-based plastics. Also includes resin types established since 1988 and those marked with the number 7.



## Sales data and return rates

### Containers returned to Coordinators

During April to June 2012, a total of 11,754,173 approved containers were returned to Coordinators from a total of 38,847,866 approved containers sold in the Territory.

This equates to a return rate of 30.26% across all material types, effectively resulting in a third of all approved containers sold in the Territory being recycled through the Cash for Containers program. This information is summarised in Table 1.

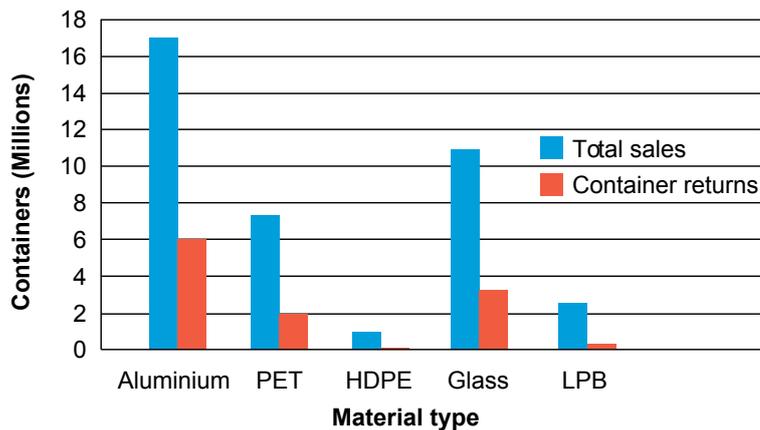
**Table 1: April to June 2012 – Total NT beverage container sales returns and return rates (Coordinators)**

Container material	Total containers sold	Containers returned to Coordinators	Container return rate (%)
Aluminium	17,048,707	6,074,399	35.63
PET	7,367,868	1,930,000	26.19
HDPE	959,645	109,662	11.43
Glass	10,929,941	3,258,943	29.82
LPB	2,541,585	381,169	15.00
Other	120	0	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38,847,866</b>	<b>11,754,173</b>	<b>30.26</b>



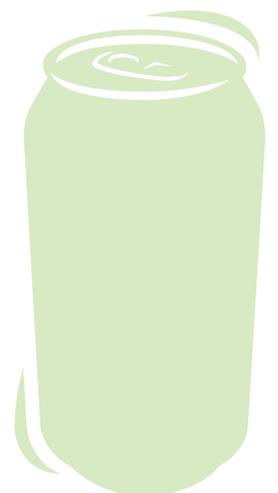
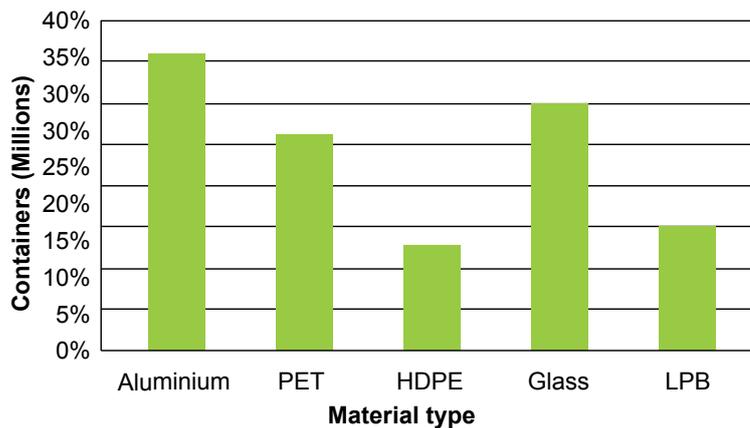
During the three months of this quarterly report, aluminium cans were the most popular container returned to Coordinators for recycling under the scheme (see Figure 1). More than six million cans were recycled during this period.

**Figure 1: April to June 2012 – Beverage container sales and returns by material type**



More than 35% of aluminium cans sold in the Territory are recycled through the Cash for Containers scheme (See Figure 2). While almost 30% of glass containers and more than 25% of PET containers were also prevented from becoming landfill.

**Figure 2: April to June 2012 – Beverage container return rates by material type**



## Containers redeemed at Collection Depots

A total of 12,162,234 containers were redeemed at Collection Depots over the second quarter of the scheme's operation, from April to June 2012.

This consisted of:

- 6,842,845 aluminium cans;
- 1,977,954 PET containers;
- 2,881,518 glass containers;
- 163,946 HDPE containers;
- 292,268 liquid paper board containers; and
- 3,703 other containers, including other plastic and steel containers.

The redemption of these containers at Collection Depots equates to over \$1.2 million in deposits that have been paid out to families, schools, community organisations and business owners in the Territory during this period.

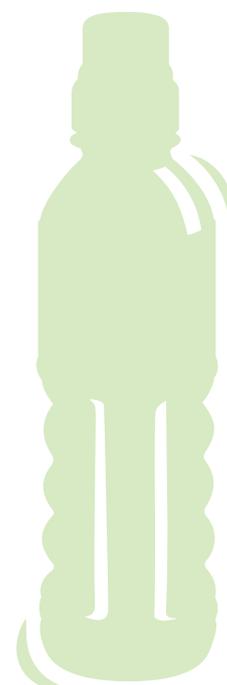
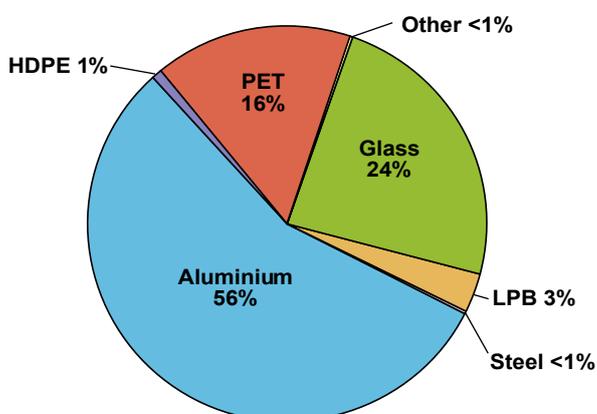
The redemption of these containers at Collection Depots is 31.31% of all approved container sales in the Territory across all containers/material types.

From the 12 million containers redeemed at Collection Depots, 56% of the volume was aluminium cans, while glass was 24% of the total.

See Figure 3 for breakdown.

There are differences in redemption rates and return rates as some Collection Depots have not yet returned all containers redeemed through the reporting period to CDS Coordinators.

**Figure 3: April to June 2012 – Collection Depot redemptions by material type**



## Sales and redemption rates

During April to June 2012, a total of 12,162,234 approved containers we redeemed at Collection Depots from a total of 38,847,866 approved containers sold in the Territory.

This equates to a redemption rate of 31.31% across all material types, effectively resulting in a third of all approved containers sold in the Territory being recycled through the Cash for Containers scheme. This information is summarised in Table 2.

**Table 2: April to June 2012 – NT total container sales and redemption rates (Collection Depots)**

Container material	Total containers sold	Containers redeemed at Collection Depots	Container redemption rate (%)
Aluminium	17,048,707	6,842,845	40.14%
PET	7,367,868	1,977,954	26.85%
HDPE	959,645	163,946	17.08%
Glass	10,929,941	2,881,518	26.36%
LPB	2,541,585	292,268	11.50%
Other	120	3,703 <sup>1</sup>	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38,847,866</b>	<b>12,162,234</b>	<b>31.31%</b>

1. Of note in the above table is that the 3703 other containers redeemed at Collection Depots during the quarter is substantially higher than the recorded sales for the same period. A possible explanation for this is the lag in container sales to redemptions and that the containers may have been sold in the previous quarter and were not redeemed to a Collection Depot until quarter two.

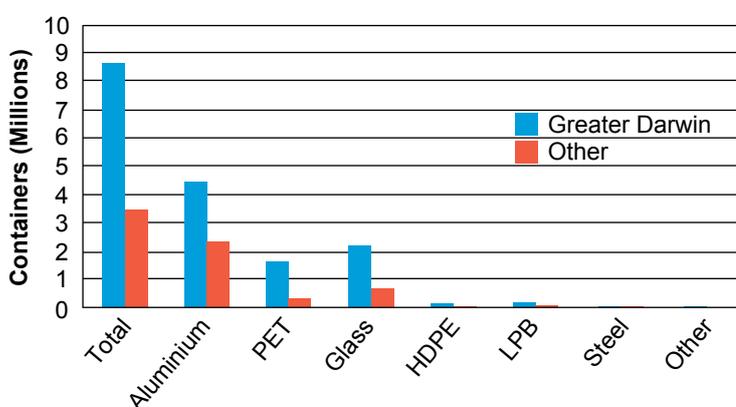


## Redemptions by region

In the reporting period, Collection Depots were operating in the Greater Darwin region, Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and Finke. Analysis has been undertaken of the container redemptions by region (Figure 4):

- In the Greater Darwin region, including Palmerston and the northern suburbs, 8.67 million containers were redeemed; and
- Areas outside Darwin including Katherine, Alice Springs, Finke and Tennant Creek redeemed 3.5 million containers.

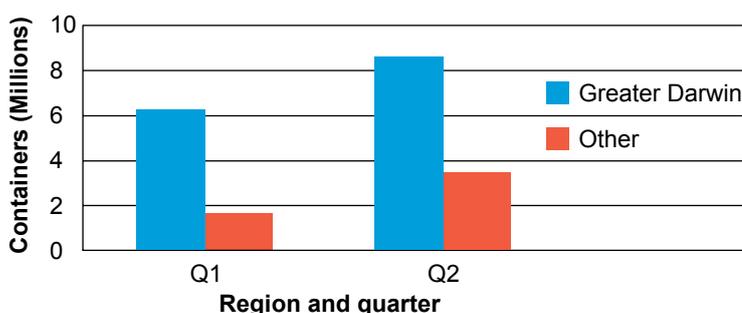
**Figure 4: April to June 2012 – Collection Depot redemptions by region**



This second quarterly report, for the period of April to June, shows an increase of over 4.2 million containers redeemed above the first quarter across the Northern Territory. This is a 52% increase.

This increase is even more significant in areas outside of the Greater Darwin region with an increase in container redemptions of over 113% from the first quarter to second quarter in these areas. There were close to 3.5 million containers redeemed in areas outside of the Greater Darwin region in the second quarter, which is an increase of 1.85 million containers.

**Figure 5: Quarter 1 and 2 2012 – Collection Depot redemptions by region**



## End fate of materials

Under Cash for Containers, Collection Depots send the redeemed containers to the Coordinators who then recycle, reuse or appropriately dispose of the aggregated materials.

As indicated, 100% of all materials collected through the scheme are either recycled or re-used locally and not going into the environment or to landfill. Table 3 provides a summary of the materials recycled, reused and/or appropriately disposed of for the second quarter of Cash for Containers.

**Table 3: April to June 2012 – Recycling, reuse and disposal of returned containers in the scheme**

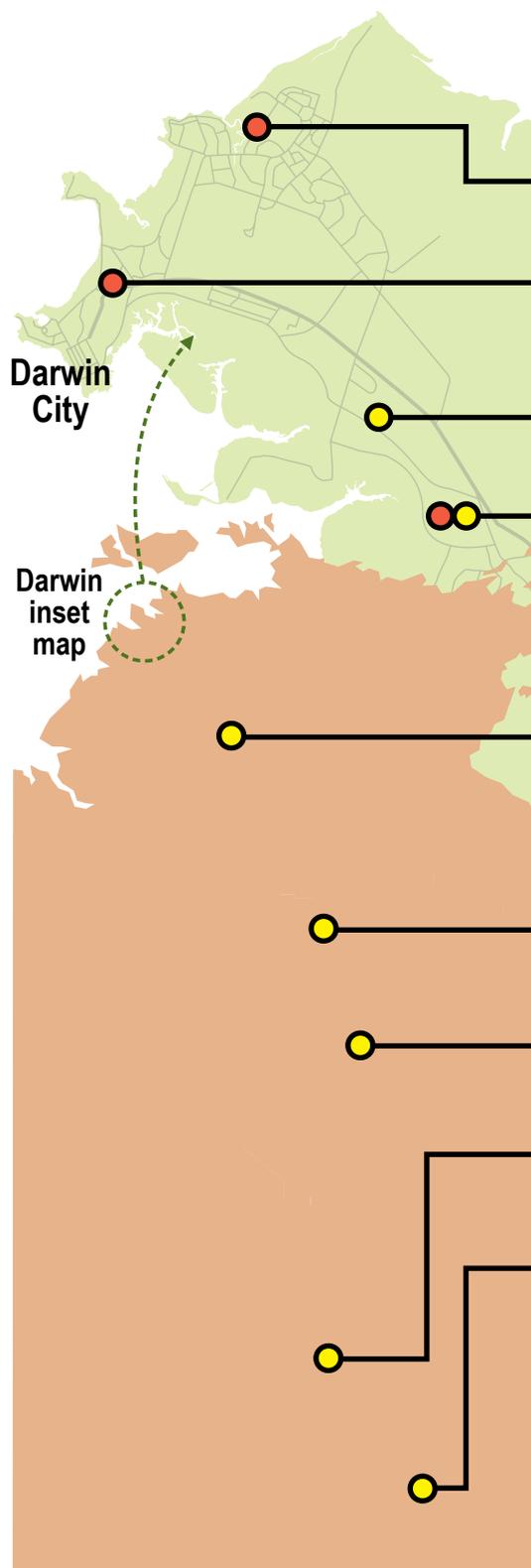
Container material	Containers recycled	Containers stored awaiting sale for Recycling	Containers stored awaiting reprocessing and use as road base
Aluminium	100% Recycled		
PET	91.99% Recycled	8.01% stored awaiting resale	
HDPE	95.71% recycled	4.29% stored awaiting sale	
Glass	46.71% recycled		53.29% stored awaiting reuse
LPB	71.9% recycled	28.1% stockpiled awaiting sale	

## Additional information

The next quarterly report (July to September 2012) on Cash for Containers is due for release in October 2012.

The first annual report on the administration of the Act will be tabled in Parliament in September 2012.

For more information visit [www.greeningnt.nt.gov.au.au](http://www.greeningnt.nt.gov.au.au) or contact the Waste Programs team on 1800 752 632 or [cashforcontainers@nt.gov.au](mailto:cashforcontainers@nt.gov.au)



- Collection Depot
- Reverse Vending Machine

## Territory Collection Depots

**Casuarina (CDU):** Envirobank Recycling  
RVM, Ellengowan Drive, ph: 08 8931 0397

**Parap:** Envirobank Recycling RVM,  
5 Parap Road, ph: 08 8931 0397

**Berrimah:** Veolia Environmental Services,  
13 Beaton Road, ph: 08 8947 8947

**Pinelands:** Envirobank Recycling,  
41 McKinnon Road, ph: 08 8931 0397

**Katherine:**  
M.T. Bins Pty Ltd, Shed 5, Bovril Street,  
ph: 08 8971 0577

Envirobank Recycling, Shed 4,  
44 Crawford Street, ph: 08 8931 0397

**Elliott:** Bagnall Agencies and Elliott Mechanical,  
4-6 Lewis Street, ph: 08 8969 2085

**Tennant Creek:** Barkly Metal Trading, Factory 2,  
26 Irvine Street, ph: 08 8962 3637

**Alice Springs:** Territory Recycling Depot  
& Veolia Environmental Services,  
106 Smith Street, ph: 08 8952 8333

**Finke:** Aputula Community Store,  
Lot 43 Mayvale Road, ph: 08 8956 0968

## CDS Coordinators

**NT Coordinators Pty Ltd**  
e: ntcoord@gibsonpartners.com.au

**Envirobank NT Pty Ltd**  
e: nanderson@envirobank.com.au

**Statewide Recycling**  
e: tony@statewiderecycling.com.au

**NT Recycling Services Pty Ltd**  
e: coordinator@ntrs.com.au

**Marine Stores Pty Ltd**  
e: garry.bull@marinestores.com.au