

Container Deposit Scheme Quarterly Report

1 January to 31 March 2015

Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority

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1 Introduction

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

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

Territorians can collect their 10 cents in return for each approved container that is delivered to an approved collection depot. During the January to March 2015 quarter collection depots were open in Berrimah, Pinelands, Winnellie, Katherine, Elliot, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. A Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) operated at Charles Darwin University.

Since CDS commenced approval has been granted for the supply of over 5,000 products in regulated containers. During the January to March 2015 quarter 55 container supply approval applications from 21 companies were granted, representing 287 products approved for supply into the Northern Territory in the period.

1.1 Legislation

The amended *Environment Protection (Beverage Container and Plastic Bags) Act 2014* commenced on 30 June 2014. The regulatory oversight for the Act now lies with the Northern Territory Environment Protection Authority (NT EPA).

1.2 Approved refund markings

All regulated and approved beverage containers sold in the Northern Territory must bare 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

Containers redeemed: the number of approved containers that have been accepted by collection depots to give a 10 cent refund to the community.

Containers returned: the number of containers that have been aggregated and returned to CDS coordinators from collection points.

HDPE (high-density polyethylene): 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.

LPB (liquid paper board): 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 *ultra-high-temperature (UHT)* processed beverages.

Other material: 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.

PET (polyethylene terephthalate): 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.

Return rates: 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.

RVM reverse vending machine: a device that accepts used (empty) beverage containers and returns money to the user. Some RVM only accept aluminium and plastic containers.

3 Sales and Return Data

During the January to March 2015 quarter, 34 932 202 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory and 16 590 008 containers were returned to CDS coordinators.

This equates to a return rate of 47.49% across all material types (see Table 1). That is, 47.49% of all containers sold in the Northern Territory 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	14 406 745	7 933 234	55.07
PET	8 827 263	3 457 965	39.17
HDPE	982 645	269 368	27.41
Glass	8 664 298	4 093 279	47.24
LPB	2 018 035	836 162	41.43
Steel/ Other	33 216	0	0
TOTAL	34 932 202	16 590 008	47.49

In this quarter 47.24% of glass beverage containers sold in the Northern Territory were returned to CDS coordinators. Of the other major material streams 55.07% of aluminium containers, 39.17% of PET containers and 41.43% of LPB containers were processed through the scheme (see Figure 1).

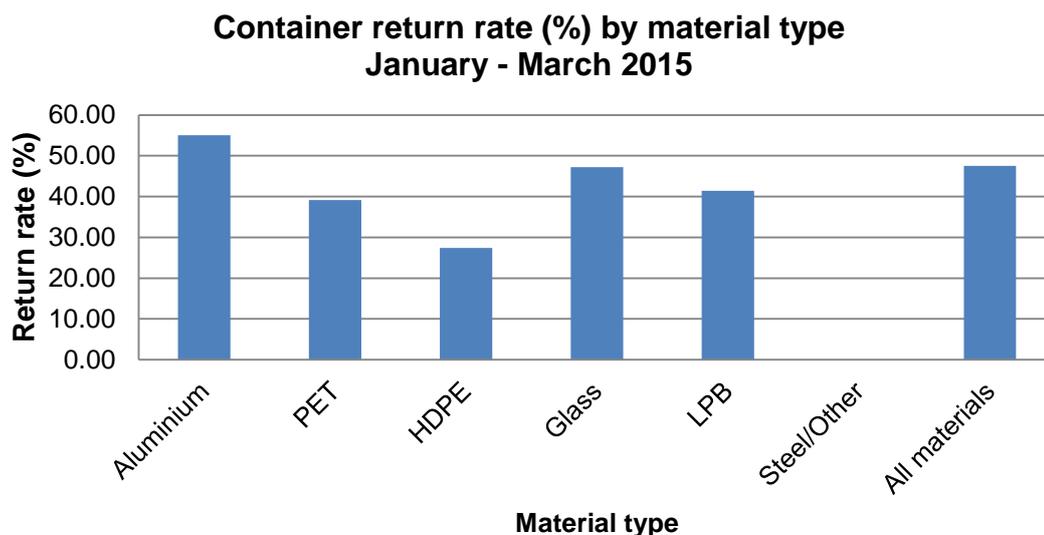


Figure 1: Return rate by material type

The CDS has seen a steady increase in return rates since the scheme commenced in 2012. This increase continued in the first two quarters of 2014-15, as reflected in figure 2.

A combination of factors, including temporary closure of two regional collection depots for major improvements and for seasonal reasons during the January to March 2015 quarter are likely to have contributed to a reduction of 6.63% from the return rate of 53.85% achieved in October to December 2014 to 47.49% in the January to March 2015 quarter. In addition to this a major beverage supplier to the NT recently transitioned commercial arrangements for the reuse, recycling and other appropriate disposal of their beverage containers to a different CDS Coordinator, which may have contributed to temporary delays in the return of those containers in the January to March 2015 quarter.

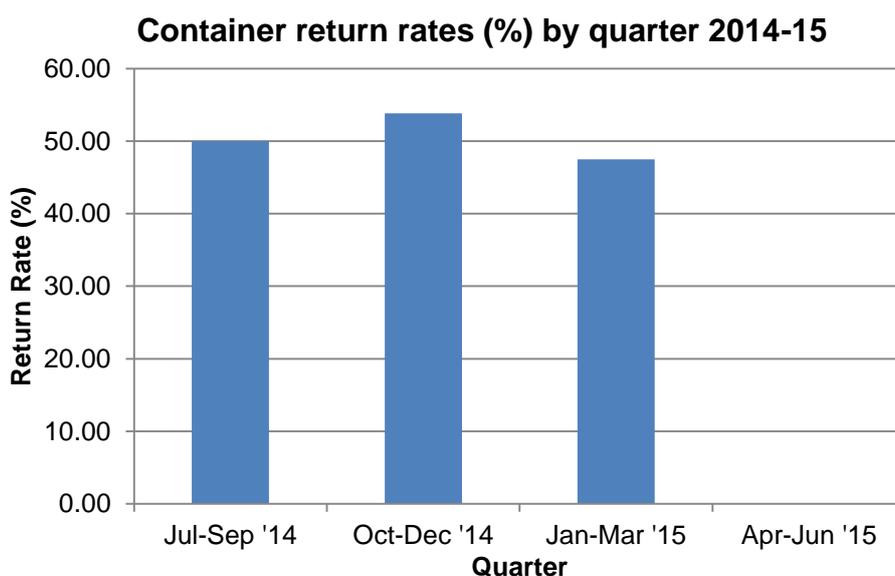


Figure 2: 2014-15 return rates by quarter

Despite the reduction in return rates following the October to December 2014 quarter, total return rates for January to March 2015 remain higher than for the corresponding January to March quarter in 2014 as illustrated by Figure 3.

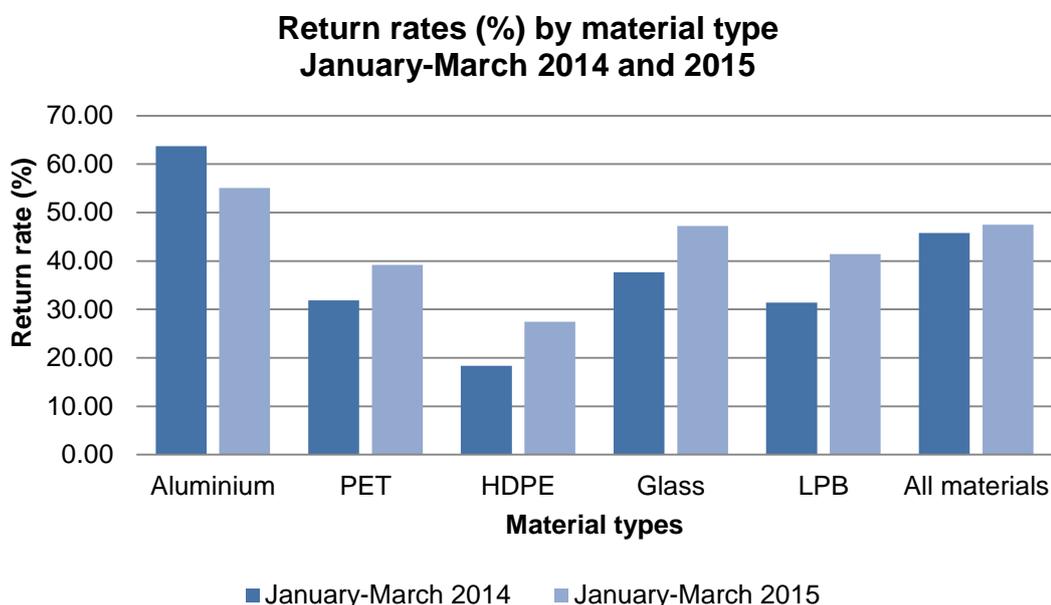


Figure 3: Comparative return rates in January to March 2014 and 2015

4 Containers Redeemed at Collection Depots

A total of 17 783 161 containers were redeemed at collection depots over the January to March 2015 quarter (see table 2). The redemption of these containers equates to over \$1.7 million in deposits that have been paid out to families, schools, community organisations and commercial operators in the Northern Territory over the January to March 2015 period.

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

Container material	Containers redeemed at collection depots
Aluminium	8 843 395
PET	3 320 883
HDPE	226 467
Glass	4 623 195
LPB	758 300
Steel/ Other	10 921
TOTAL	17 783 161

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.

- 12.88 million containers were redeemed in the greater Darwin region; and
- 4.90 million containers were redeemed in areas outside of Darwin (see Figure 4).

Collection Depot Redemptions by Region

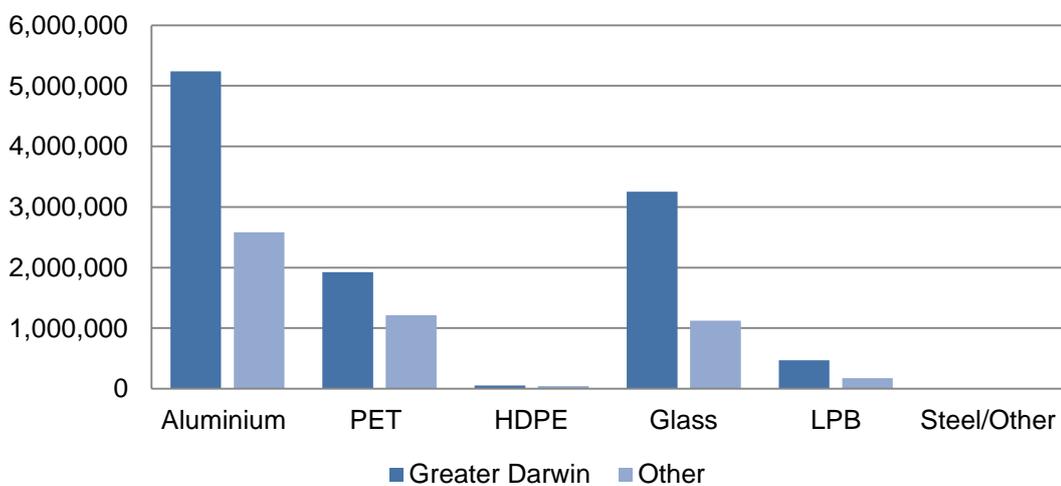


Figure 4: Collection depot redemptions by region and material type