



## Container Deposit Scheme

# Container Deposit Scheme Quarterly Report

1 April to 30 June 2014

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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; NT Coordinators, Envirobank NT, Statewide Recycling, NT Recycling Solutions and Marine Stores. 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 April to June 2014 quarter collection depots were open in Pinelands, Winnellie, Katherine, Elliot, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) were operating in Milingimbi and at Charles Darwin University.

There are 332 listed approval holders supplying beverages in regulated containers into the Northern Territory representing almost 4 500 approved products.

### **1.1 Legislative amendments**

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

The Act creates new requirements under the CDS to ensure collection depots are open to the public, ensure all CDS participants establish their own contractual arrangements, and to reduce the number of categories that containers are split into at the collection depot level.

### **1.2 Approved refund markings**

The transition period allowing suppliers to vary the labelling on containers sold in the Territory to include "NT" in approved refund markings ended on 30 June 2014. All regulated and approved beverage containers sold in the Territory must now bare either of the following refund 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 returned:* the number of containers that have been aggregated and returned to CDS coordinators from collection depots.

*Return rates:* the total percentage of container numbers that have been returned to CDS coordinators in relation to the total number of containers sold in the Territory.

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

*PET (polyethylene terephthalate):* the product plastic beverage containers are made from (for example, water bottles).

*HDPE (high-density polyethylene):* materials that some juice containers are made from.

*LPB (liquid paper board):* material utilised in the 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 UHT beverages.

*Other containers:* 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.

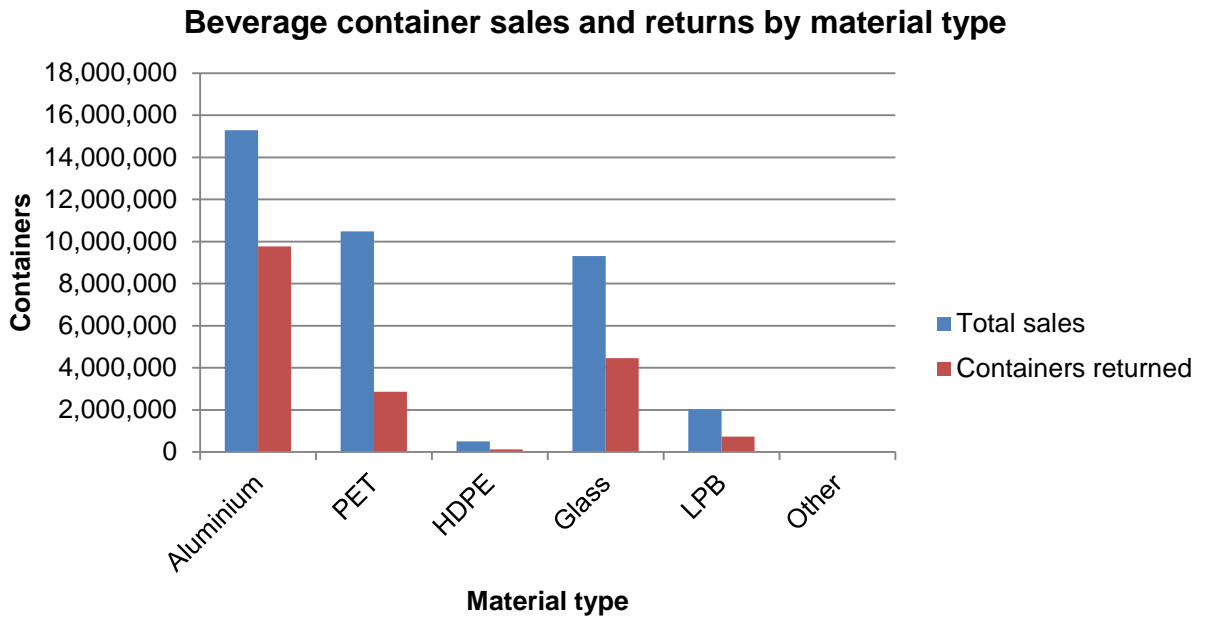
## 3 Sales Data and Return Rates

During the April to June 2014 quarter, 37 615 795 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory. 17 957 993 of those containers were returned to CDS coordinators. This equates to a return rate of 47.74% across all material types (see Table 1). That is, 47.74% 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**

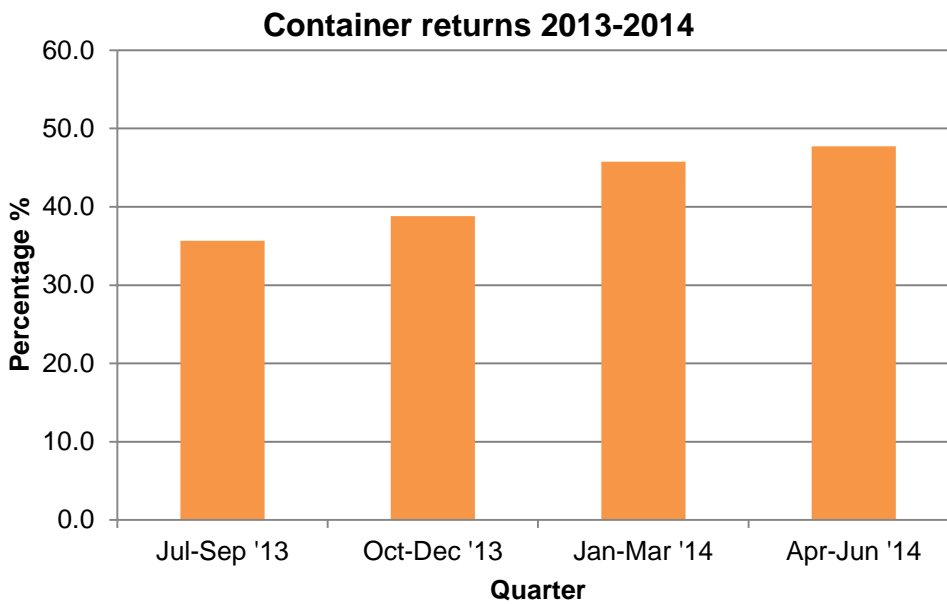
Container material	Containers sold	Containers returned to CDS coordinators	Container return rates (%)
Aluminium	15 282 181	9 761 871	63.88
PET	10 478 354	2 866 858	27.36
HDPE	505 212	125 189	24.78
Glass	9 311 588	4 465 504	47.96
LPB	2 031 860	738 571	36.35
Steel/Other	6 600	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37 615 795</b>	<b>17 957 993</b>	<b>47.74</b>

In this quarter 63.88% of aluminium containers sold in the Northern Territory were returned to CDS coordinators. Of the other major material streams 47.96% of glass containers, 27.36% of PET containers and 24.78% LPB were processed through the scheme (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Beverage container sales and returns by material type**

The CDS has seen a steady increase in return rates over the past year. Figure 2 demonstrates a return rate of 35.65% in the July – September 2013 quarter rising to 47.74% in the April to June 2014. This shows an increase of 12.09% over the 12 month period.



**Figure 2: Container return rate by quarter**

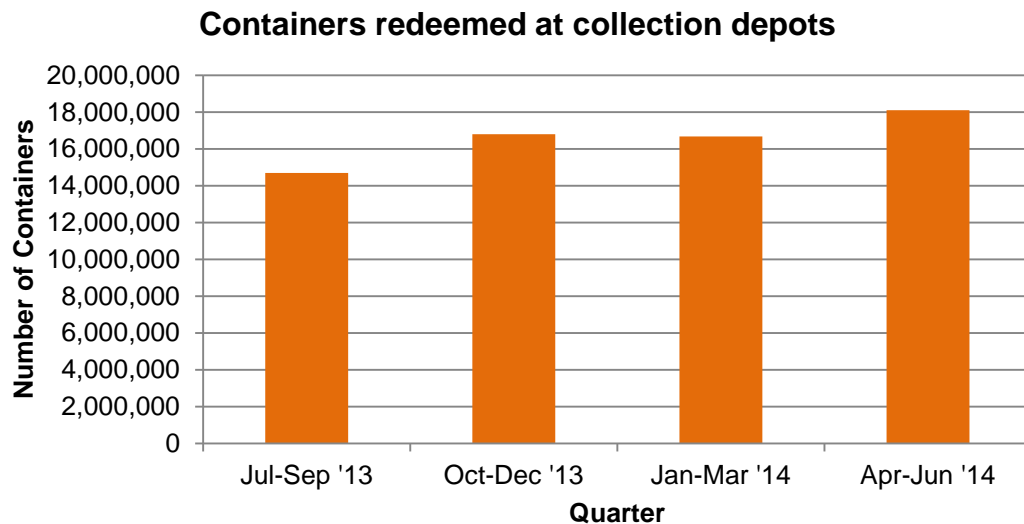
## 4 Containers Redeemed at Collection Depots

A total of 18 096 384 containers were redeemed at collection depots over the final quarter of 2013/2014 (see Table 2). The redemption of these containers equates to over \$1.8 million in deposits that have been paid out to families, schools, community organisations and commercial operators in the Northern Territory over the April to June 2014 period.

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

Container material	Containers redeemed at collection depots
Aluminium	10 744 424
PET	3 213 658
HDPE	120 926
Glass	3 481 687
LPB	529 204
Steel/Other	6 485
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18 096 384</b>

Figure 3 shows the number of containers redeemed at collection depots in each quarter that the scheme has been operating. 1 422 373 more containers than the previous quarter were redeemed at collection depots during the April to June 2014 quarter.



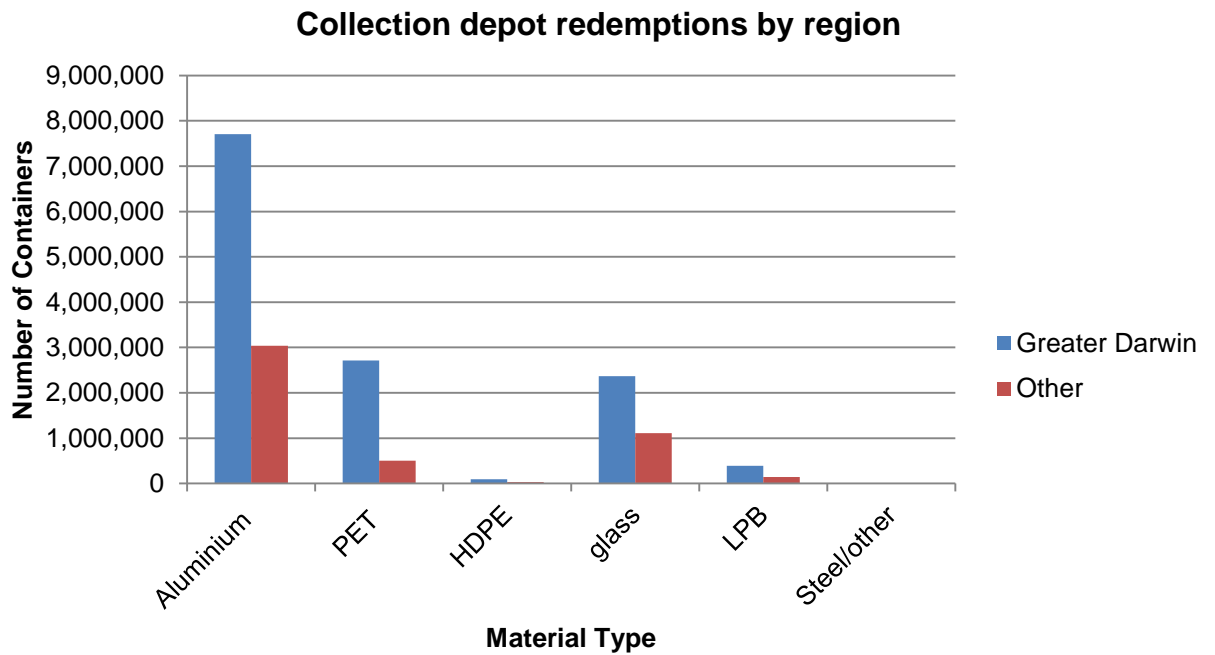
**Figure 3: Number of containers redeemed at collection depots by quarter**

## 4.1 Redemptions by Region

Collection depots operating in the greater Darwin region include the depots located in Berrimah, Pinelands, and Charles Darwin University. Areas outside of Darwin include depots in Katherine, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Elliot and Milingimbi:

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

Figure 4 shows the number of containers by material type collected in the greater Darwin region compared to the number in areas outside of Darwin.



**Figure 4: Collection depot redemptions by region**