

Container Deposit Scheme Quarterly Report

1 April to 30 June 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 its 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 April to June 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 CDS commenced approval has been granted for the supply of over 4 400 products in regulated containers. During the April to June 2015 quarter 56 container supply approval applications from 31 companies were granted, representing 239 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 April to June 2015 quarter are:

1. Of the 37 459 855 approved containers sold in the Northern Territory, 20 316 567 were returned to CDS coordinators.
2. This represents a container return rate of 54.24%, an increase of 6.75% on the previous January to March 2015 quarterly rate of 47.49% of containers reused, recycled, or appropriately disposed of through the CDS.
3. Return rates of containers to coordinators have followed an increasing trend since the scheme commenced in 2012.
4. Collection Depots redeemed 20 473 029 containers during the quarter equating to over \$2.04 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* (in force 30 June 2014) ('the Act'). The 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 April to June 2015 quarter 37 459 855 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory with 20 316 567 returned to CDS coordinators (Table 1).

This represents a total return rate of 54.24%, which indicates that of all containers sold in the Northern Territory, 54.24% 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	15 008 745	9 310 240	62.03
PET	9 481 141	4 190 882	44.20
HDPE	830 919	250 479	30.14
Glass	10 109 911	5 761 240	56.99
LPB	2 006 711	802 394	39.99
Steel/ Other	22 428	1 332	5.94
TOTAL	37 459 855	20 316 567	54.24

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

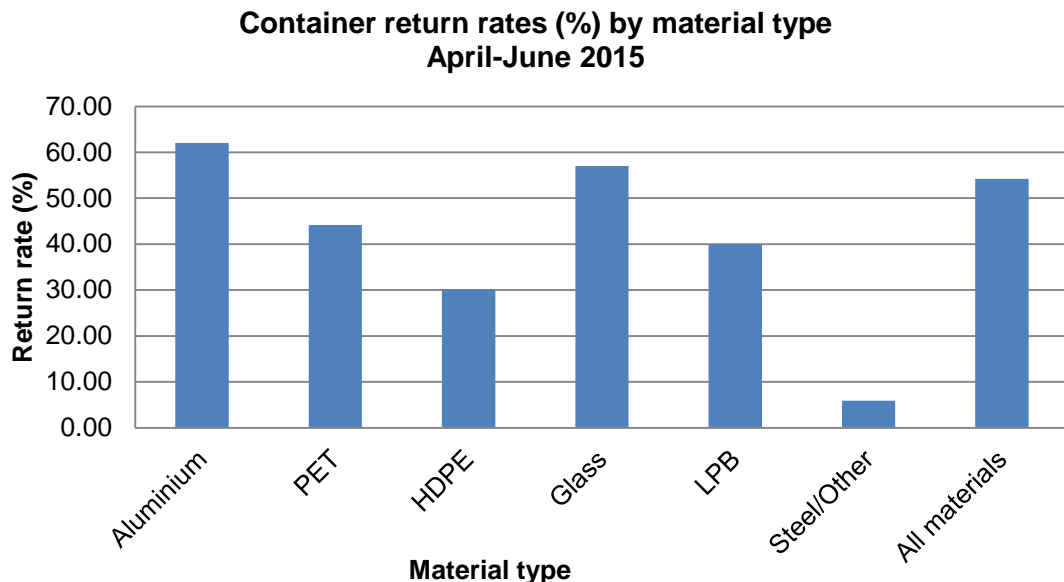


Figure 1 Return rate by material type for the quarter

3.1 Quarterly return rates since commencement

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

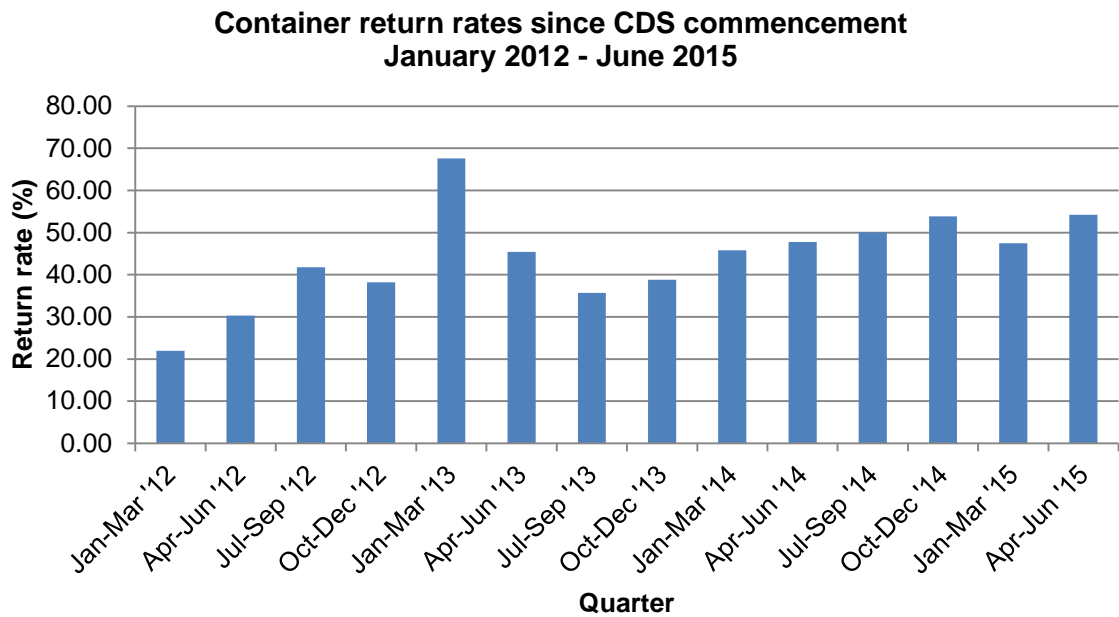


Figure 2 Container return rates by quarter since commencement of CDS

This increase continued over the four quarters of 2014-15, as reflected in Figure 3. The reduced return rate for the previous January to March 2015 quarter coincided with the temporary closure of two regional collection depots for business improvements and wet season factors. The January to March 2015 quarter also followed a transition of services to a major beverage supplier to the Northern Territory between CDS coordinators for the reuse, recycling and other appropriate disposal of containers, which likely delayed the return of containers during the March 2015 quarter.

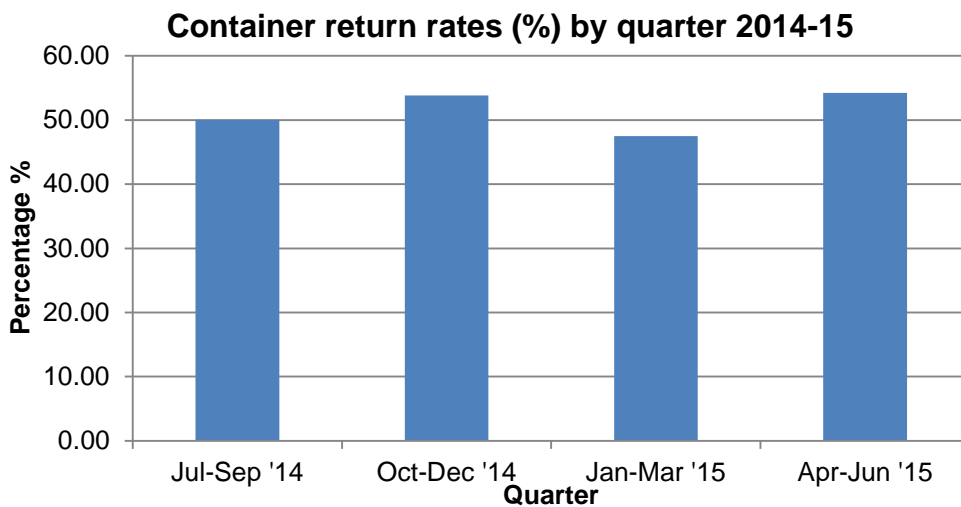


Figure 3 2014-15 return rates by quarter

4 Containers redeemed at collection depots

Over the April to June 2015 period a total of 20 473 029 containers were redeemed at collection depots over the April to June 2015 quarter (Table 2). This equates to over \$2.04 million in refunds to donating families, schools, community organisations and commercial operators in the NT.

Table 1 Number of containers redeemed by material type at collection depots

Container Material	Containers redeemed at collection depots
Aluminium	9 800 654
PET	4 058 646
HDPE	170 363
Glass	5 619 923
LPB	811 893
Steel/ Other	11 550
TOTAL	20 473 029

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 April to June 2015 quarter containers were redeemed in both the Greater Darwin area and outside regions as follows (Table 3 and Figure 4):

- 15.34 million in the Greater Darwin region; and
- 5.13 million outside the Greater Darwin region.

Table 2 Collection depot redemptions by region and material type

Container Material	Container redemption distribution		Total containers redeemed
	Greater Darwin Region	Outside Greater Darwin	
Aluminium	7 216 195	2 584 459	9 800 654
PET	2 846 139	1 212 507	4 058 646
HDPE	129 007	41 356	170 363
Glass	4 498 786	1 121 137	5 619 923
LPB	637 286	174 607	811 893
Steel/ Other	11 550	0	11 550
TOTAL	15 338 963	5 134 066	20 473 029

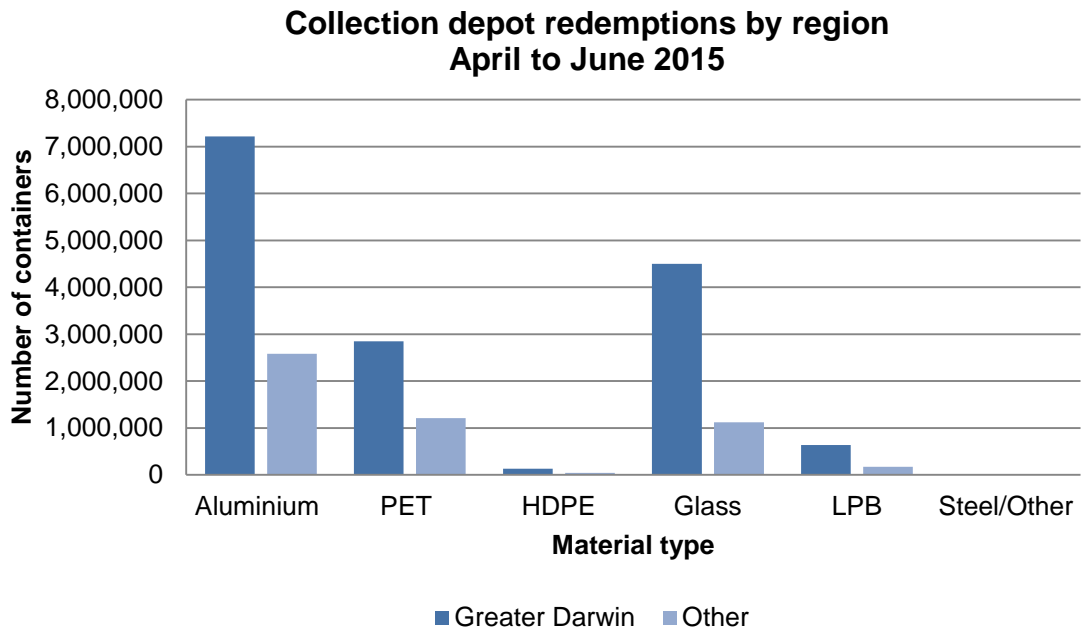


Figure 4 Collection depot redemptions by region and material type