

Container Deposit Scheme Quarterly Report

1 October to 31 December 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 the 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 manufactures 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 October to December 2015 quarter collection depots were open in Berrimah, Pinelands, Wagait Beach, Winnellie, Katherine, Elliot, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek and a Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) operated at Charles Darwin University and Milingimbi.

Since the CDS commenced, approval has been granted for the supply of over 6 041 products in regulated containers. During the quarter 49 container supply approval applications from 27 companies were granted, representing 162 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 October to December 2015 quarter are:

1. Of the 35 975 627 approved containers sold in the Northern Territory, 18 900 367 were returned to CDS coordinators.
2. This represents a container return rate of 52.54%, a decrease of 1.32% on the previous October to December 2014 quarterly rate of 53.85%, but an increase of 3.6% from the previous quarter July to September 2015.
3. Return rates of containers to coordinators have generally followed an increasing trend since the scheme commenced in 2012.
4. Collection Depots redeemed 21 050 230 of the containers returned during the quarter equating to over \$2.10 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* ('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 quarter 35 975 627 approved containers were sold in the Northern Territory with 18 900 367 returned to CDS coordinators (Table 1).

This represents a total return rate of 52.54%, which indicates that of all containers sold in the Northern Territory, 52.54% 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	13910722	8 644 780	62.14
PET	9651410	3 056 465	31.67
HDPE	1021564	218 366	21.38
Glass	9242281	6 100 322	66.00

Container Material	Containers Sold	Containers Returned to CDS Coordinators	Container Return Rate (%)
LPB	2132562	878 829	41.21
Steel/ Other	17088	1 605	9.39
TOTAL	35 975 627	18900367	52.54

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

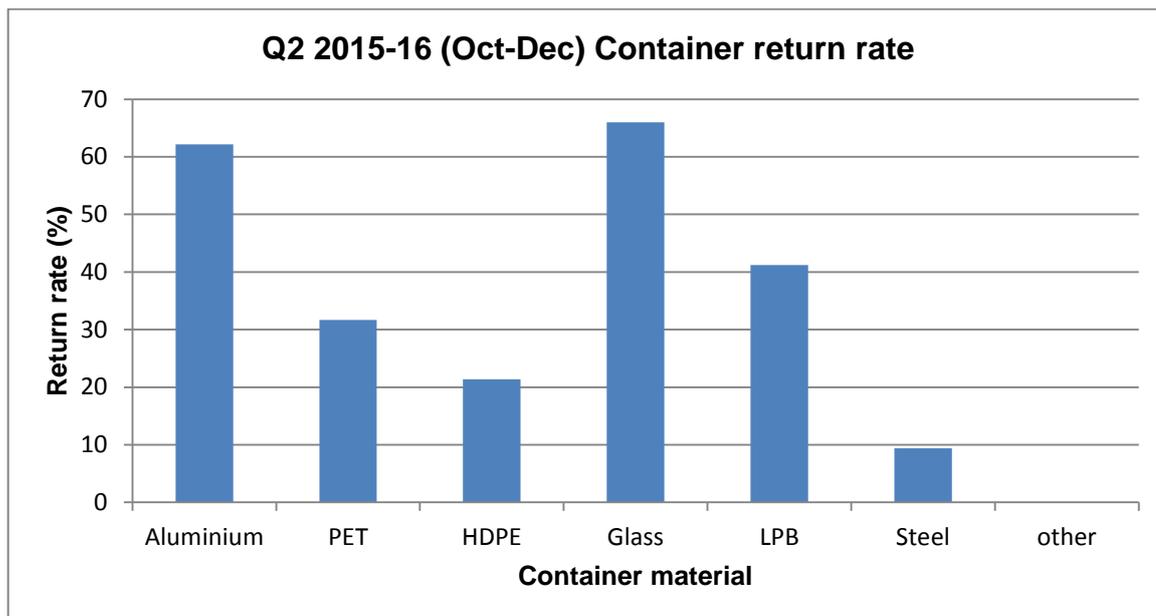


Figure 1: Return rate by material type for the quarter

3.1 Quarterly return rates since commencement

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

The number of containers returned decreased in the October to December 2015 quarter compared to the July to September 2015 quarter. However, due to a reduction in the number of containers sold during October to December 2015, the return rate increased relatively.

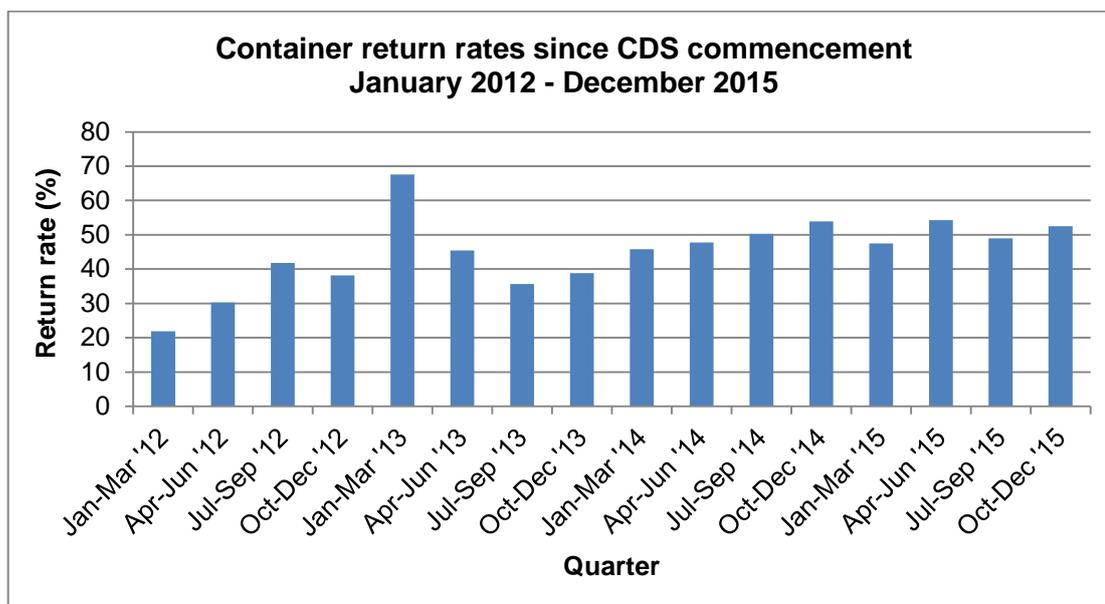


Figure 2: Container return rates by quarter since commencement of the CDS

4 Containers redeemed at collection depots

An approved collection depot is the public face of the CDS, where the community can claim their 10 cent redemption for approved containers. 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 the refund amount and a handling fee relating to the sorting, cleaning, packing and processing of the container to ensure that it can be reused, recycled, or otherwise appropriately disposed of.

Over the quarter a total of 21 050 230 containers were redeemed at collection depots (Table 2). This equates to over \$2.10 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	9 867 823
PET	3 547 423
HDPE	192 314
Glass	6 573 482
LPB	852 820
Steel/ Other	16 368
TOTAL	21 050 230

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 and Milingimbi.

Over the quarter containers were redeemed in both the Greater Darwin area and outside regions as follows (Table 3 and Figure 3):

- 15.55 million in the Greater Darwin region
- 5.50 million outside the Greater Darwin region.

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	6 966 071	2 901 752	9 867 823
PET	2 489 232	1 058 191	3 547 423
HDPE	135 203	57 111	192 314
Glass	5 298 041	1 275 441	6 573 482
LPB	646 478	206 342	852 820
Steel/ Other	16 239	129	16 368
TOTAL	15 551 264	5 498 966	21 050 230

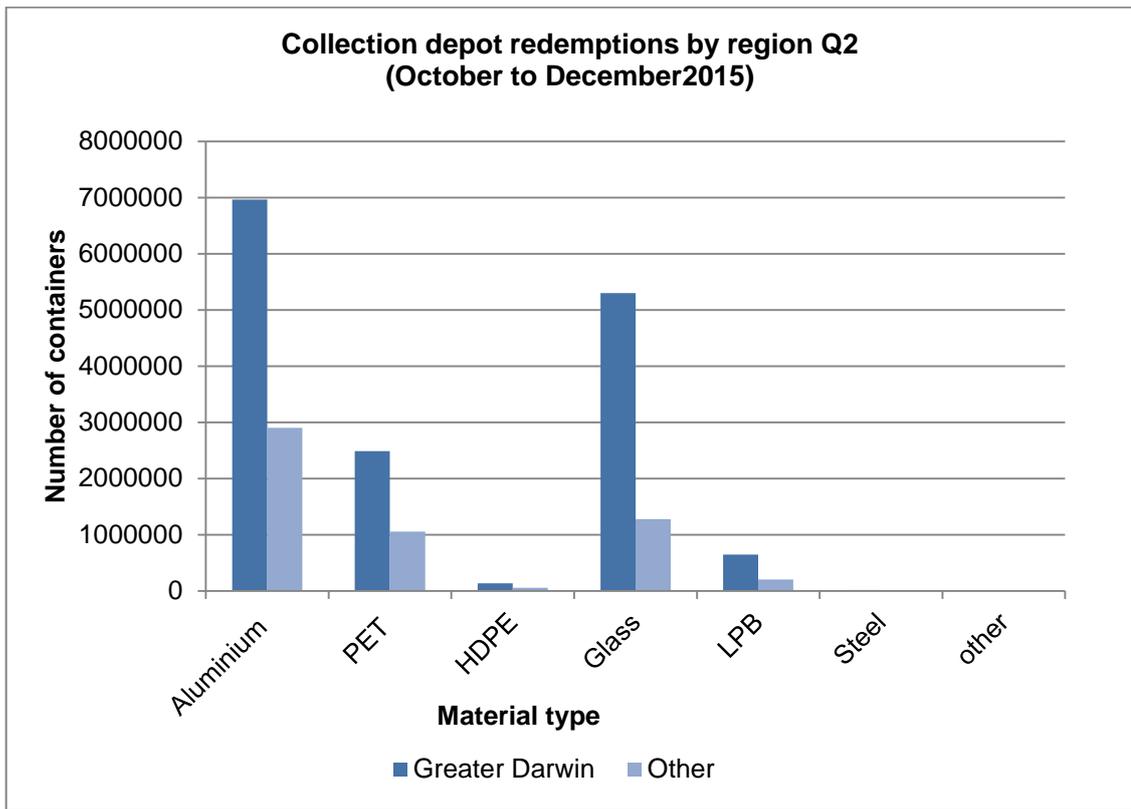


Figure 3: Collection depot redemptions by region and material type