

Have your say on expanding the range of eligible containers for a 10-cent refund



Since the introduction of the Container Refund Scheme four years ago, over six billion containers have been recovered. The recycling rate of beverage containers has increased from 18 per cent to over 63 per cent, helping to protect Queensland's unique environment and the great lifestyle we all enjoy by reducing litter and pollution.

We want to know what you think about [expanding the scheme](#) to include additional containers that would be eligible for a refund.

[To have your say, complete the survey here.](#)

Tips for reducing your waste these holidays

The festive season can be both a busy and relaxing time for Queenslanders. Make avoiding and reducing your waste stress free with these simple tips.

1. Use tea towels as gift wrap

Unfortunately, not all gift wrap is recyclable and large amounts often end up in landfill at this time of year. A great alternative is to wrap presents in tea towels, linen or clothing. Not only does this create less waste, but it's also a practical and unique gift in itself.

2. Cut food waste

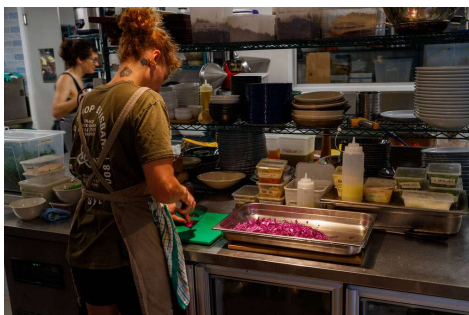
Plan and prepare your Christmas lunch in advance. Estimate how many people will be coming and write a shopping list. This [online portion planner](#) can help make sure you don't overestimate how much food to buy which will make it easier for to only organise what you need. But that doesn't mean you can't be prepared for leftovers. Ask your guests to BYO containers to take home any extra goodies.

3. Cash in your containers

Holidays are a time when many of us enjoy food and drinks with family and friends. Use some flexi tubs or baskets to collect your bottles and cans and return these at your local [Containers for Change](#) centre. You can earn yourself a little extra cash or donate it to your favourite local community group.



Food rescue grants open for applications



Food rescue organisations can apply for grants of up to \$500,000 through the [Food Rescue Grant Program](#).

Grants will be provided for infrastructure, equipment and operational costs that help divert additional food from landfill and redistribute it to Queenslanders in need.

More information on eligibility, costs and how to apply is available [online](#).

Applications close Monday 16 January 2023.

Palm Island bins keeping Country clean

Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council has successfully reduced the amount of litter and illegal dumping in the community after installing 20 vandal-proof waste bins in high traffic locations.

Students from two local schools designed the artwork or 'bin wraps' for the bins. The designs reflect how litter and illegal dumping can negatively impact land and sea while celebrating their community and its landscape.



The bins have been placed in locations including the jetty, foreshore, parks and playgrounds. Since their instalment, there been a reduction in litter and an increased sense of pride in keeping the community clean.

This project was funded by the Department of Environment and Science.

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