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Media Statement

Clean Up Australia Chairman and Founder, Ian Kiernan congratulates the Queensland Government and Environment Minister Steven Miles for the announcement of a state-wide container refund scheme for their state

Brisbane, 11am, Friday 22 July 2016

As the annual Great Northern Clean Up approaches, Clean Up Australia Chairman and Founder Ian Kiernan AO congratulates the Queensland Government and Environment Minister Steven Miles for the bipartisan leadership shown with the announcement of a state-wide container refund scheme for their state.

According to Ian Kiernan this announcement is the culmination of more than 10 years of community funded lobbying and support for waste management reform.

“The Queensland Government and Environment have shown great leadership in seeing through a lot of the greenwash delivered by beverage funded campaigning; to make their decision based on sound research and economics,” said Mr Kiernan.

Joining their southern and western neighbours, the scheme will actively encourage diversion of the 2.4 billion containers Queenslanders use every year; resulting in a dramatic reduction of the percentage of container rubbish Clean Up volunteers report as part of their continuing efforts. Beverage containers represented nearly 25% of all rubbish reported by Queensland volunteers in 2015.

One third of these were reported from waterways; closely followed by roadsides and parks. As northern Queenslanders take to their streets in September for the Great Northern Clean Up, they can now take comfort from the fact that the beverage containers that fill their bags will soon be a thing of the past.

“A container deposit scheme represents major waste management reform for the state and overall improved energy management. It is a major boost for the recycling industry; creating jobs and better management for finite resources,” said Mr Kiernan.

“It’s a major win for the people of QLD, particularly everyone who has dedicated their time and passion for such a positive result.”

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For more information and to arrange an interview with Ian Kiernan or Terrie-Ann Johnson, CEO, please call Tracey Wigg on 0419141 266

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