



## Talking points to accompany Cabinet paper: The option of a container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand

Date Submitted:	27 July 2021	Tracking #: BRF-378	
Security Level:	Policy and Privacy In-Confidence	MfE Priority:	Not Urgent

	<b>Action sought:</b>	<b>Response by:</b>
Hon David PARKER, Minister for the Environment	Note the accompanying talking points to support your attendance at the upcoming Cabinet Economic Development Committee meeting on 4 August	10 Aug 2021

Actions for Minister's Office Staff	Return the signed paper to MfE
Number of appendices and attachments #1	<b>Appendix 1:</b> Talking points to support your attendance at Cabinet Economic Development Committee on 4 August

### Key contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1st contact
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# Talking points to accompany Cabinet paper: The option of a container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand

## Key Messages

1. The purpose of this paper is to support your attendance to Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 4 August, to present the Cabinet paper titled *The option of a beverage container return scheme to increase resource recovery and reduce litter in Aotearoa New Zealand* (BRF-162 refers).
2. The Cabinet paper is the first in a series of four papers (table 1 refers) to support Cabinet’s consideration of the option of a container return scheme (CRS) for Aotearoa New Zealand.
3. Suggested talking points for CRS Cabinet paper 1 are attached at Appendix 1.

**Table 1: Indicative timeline for suite of CRS Cabinet papers**


CRS Cabinet paper scope	Committee timeline
Paper 1 (this paper): Problem definition and overview of a CRS	Early August
Paper 2a: Design considerations: driving recovery	Early September
Paper 2b: Design considerations: scope of containers	Early September
Paper 3: Agreement to consult on a CRS for New Zealand (including a consultation document)	Late November

## Recommendations

We recommend that you:

- a. Note the accompanying talking points to support your presentation of the Cabinet paper titled *The option of a beverage container return scheme to increase resource recovery and reduce litter in Aotearoa New Zealand* at Cabinet Economic Development Committee on 4 August.

## Signature

Shaun Lewis Director – Waste and Resource Efficiency	
Hon David PARKER Minister for the Environment	
Date	

## **Appendix 1: Talking points to support your attendance to Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 4 August**

### **What this paper is about**

- This paper presents the option of a beverage container return scheme (CRS) for Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ CRS). It also presents the proposed approach of advice to Cabinet on a NZ CRS.

### **Why Cabinet is considering the option of a NZ CRS now**

- Container return schemes are becoming increasingly popular overseas; every Australian state has, or is implementing, a CRS.
- Though the basic premise of schemes is the same (ie, applying a refundable deposit to beverage containers to incentivise recovery), the design specifics for each scheme vary considerably.
- Throughout 2020, Auckland and Marlborough District Councils jointly led a Waste Minimisation Fund-funded co-design process for a bespoke CRS design for Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Since the completion of the co-design project, the Ministry has provided me with advice on the project's outputs, including the extensive international research and corresponding design recommendations.
- In April/May this year, I met with a range of stakeholders interested in the option of a NZ CRS (some of whom have proposed alternative options to a NZ CRS, or their own preferred design of a NZ CRS). These meetings, alongside the Ministry's advice, demonstrated the complexities of the option of a NZ CRS.
- Analysis shows that introducing a CRS will significantly increase recovery of beverage containers and reduce litter, however it would also have impacts on business-as-usual for producers, consumers and recyclers of beverage containers.

### **Towards a decision on public consultation: suite of advice through 4 papers**

- Given the complexity of a NZ CRS, Ministers' consideration of a scheme cannot be condensed to a single Committee sitting. I propose that Cabinet consider the option of a NZ CRS through a series of four papers, ultimately leading to a Cabinet decision on whether to proceed with public consultation on a NZ CRS.
- This paper is the first in that series; it outlines the litter and resource recovery problems associated with beverage containers and recommends a NZ CRS as a proposed response to these issues.
- The second and third papers will be presented to Cabinet together in September. These papers cover the key design considerations within a scheme. I will seek Cabinet's direction on some considerations, to determine a NZ CRS design to present for public consultation.
- Subject to Cabinet's direction on key design considerations, I will direct officials to draft a consultation document on a NZ CRS incorporating Cabinet's preferred design.
- The final paper, expected in late November, will present a draft consultation document seeking Cabinet's agreement to consult on the option of a NZ CRS.

- If a decision to proceed with consultation is made, I anticipate that public consultation on a NZ CRS could begin in December this year.

**Next steps for Cabinet**

- Agree to receive further advice from me on the option of a container return scheme for Aotearoa New Zealand.