

24th February 2025

Hon. Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment
[via email: p.simmonds@ministers.co.nz]

Dear Minister Simmonds,

Re: Collective Call for a Container Return Scheme (CRS) for New Zealand

We are a coalition of organisations from across New Zealand, including the beverage industry, waste and recycling sector, NGOs, community organisations, local councils, and trade groups. Together, we share a commitment to advancing initiatives to address New Zealand's waste issues, particularly for single-use beverage containers.

This letter is to convey our support for the implementation of a Container Return Scheme (CRS) and encourage the Government to prioritise its adoption. A CRS offers a transformative opportunity for modernising New Zealand's recycling system whilst also providing significant environmental, economic, and social benefits. Container Return Schemes are proven to increase recycling rates, create new jobs, and provide fundraising mechanisms for community groups, and the charity sector. It also aligns with your government's objectives for waste, and its net-zero by 2050 climate goals.

We remain committed to working collaboratively with government to stand up a successful and fit-for-purpose CRS and we offer our expertise and support as the scheme progresses.

We are a broad and diverse group of organisations that believe a CRS provides a significant opportunity for the Government to show its commitment to positive environmental outcomes for New Zealand without incurring additional government spending. We urge you to act on this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

The Undersigned Organisations

