

Submission on the Review of the Container Deposit Scheme Minimum Network Standards Second Review



January 2022

Status of this Submission

This Submission has been prepared through the Municipal Waste Advisory Council (MWAC) for the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). MWAC is a standing committee of WALGA, with delegated authority to represent the Association in all matters relating to solid waste management. MWAC's membership includes the major Regional Councils (waste management) as well as a number of Local Government representatives. This makes MWAC a unique forum through which all the major Local Government waste management organisations cooperate.

This Submission therefore represents the consolidated view of Western Australia Local Government. However, individual Local Governments and Regional Councils may have views that differ from the positions taken here.

Due to the timeframe for consultation, this Submission has not yet been considered by MWAC. It will be put before the Council at the upcoming meeting on Wednesday, 16 February 2022. The Department will be informed of any changes to this Submission following consideration by MWAC.

Introduction

The Western Australian Local Government Association (the Association) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Second Review of the *Container Deposit Scheme Minimum Network Standards*. In contributing to the development of the Scheme, the Association made [comment](#) on the Customer Service Standards which informed the Minimum Network Standards. WALGA acknowledges that many of the recommendations made in this Submission have been included, such as the increase in allocation of refund points within the metropolitan area. In October 2021, the Association made a Submission on the first Review of the CDS Minimum Network Standards.

The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) was established under the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* on 1 October 2020. As part of the regulations, the Minimum Network Standards are to be reviewed as soon as practicable after the six-month anniversary of the Scheme commencing and after that, at intervals of not more than six months for the first three years.

As part of the Scheme a scheduled review process was included for the Minimum Network Standards. The first review occurred in October 2021 with this second review focusing on issues identified in Appendix 4 of the Issues Paper.

The second review identifies the following key points:

- Application of maximum travel distances used for modelling network coverage, which were based on an approximation of maximum shopping distances customers travel in different areas of the State
- Application of sites identified in Minimum Network Standards Consultation Summary (Laverton, Ngaanyatjarra-Giles, Telfer)
- Definition of seasonal refund point
- Definition of pop-up refund point
- Definition of mobile refund point.

This Submission comments on the key points which have been identified as part of the Second Review process.

Key Issue Identified	Options: The Minimum network standards could be updated to:			
<p>a) Application of maximum travel distances* were used for modelling network coverage and were based on an approximation of maximum shopping distances customers travel in different areas of the state</p> <p>b) Application of sites identified in Minimum Network Standards Consultation Summary (Laverton, Ngaanyatjarra-Giles, Telfer)</p>	<p>1. Insert additional text applied to section 1.3 of the minimum network standards to clarify that maximum travel distances are only used to calculate the state-wide coverage of the scheme</p>	<p>2. Remove section 1.3</p>	<p>3. Remove reference to Telfer as an indicative refund point location</p>	<p>4. Scheme coordinator to investigate regular or occasional mobile service for the Ngaanyatjarra-Giles community</p>
<p>WALGA Comment</p>	<p>1. Support 2. Don't support: These distances are important to ensure there is adequate access to refund points. 3. No comment 4. Support: The Scheme requires that if a refund point operator is not available the Scheme Coordinator needs to provide the service.</p>			
Key Issue	Options for consideration:			
<p>Definition of seasonal refund point</p>	<p>1. Define seasonal refund points as those that serve a town with less than 500 people and only operate for part of the year when tourism assists economic viability</p>	<p>2. Exempt seasonal refund points from specified minimum hours required for flexible refund points</p>	<p>3. Allow refund points in addition to those listed in the minimum network standards to self-identify as 'seasonal'.</p>	<p>4. Establish (if required) date ranges applicable for individual seasonal refund points</p>

WALGA Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support: In certain parts of WA seasonal refund points can potentially benefit local communities. 2. Conditional support: The Association understands that stipulating minimum hours for seasonal refund points may attribute additional costs and overheads which could potentially be cost prohibitive to the operation and viability of the seasonal refund point. However, there needs to be some level of minimum hours required to ensure the community can access the service. For example, in some areas there may be a need for seasonal refund points to be opened more than the minimum hours for a flexible refund point and in areas few hours, depending on seasonal populations. WALGA agrees that seasonal refund points have some flexibility regarding hours of operation, but the refund point would need to provide some form of justification to DWER for the opening hours. 3. Support: In some instances, it may be appropriate for some refund points in regional and remote locations to self-identify as seasonal due to their location and therefore have different minimum hours of operation. However, the refund point would need to provide some form of justification to DWER for self-identifying as seasonal. 4. Don't support: COVID-19 has had a significant impact on tourism in certain parts of WA, showing a substantial increase in many regions. This has meant visitors outside of the seasonal dates or times which were once considered usual. If date ranges were established based on seasonal activities, it could potentially reduce the number of containers that could potentially be captured through refund points in these locations. 		
Key Issue	Options for consideration:		
Definition of pop-up refund point	1. Define pop-up refund points as servicing temporary social events that exist outside regular business hours such as markets, music festivals, agricultural shows, sporting carnivals	2. Clarify that event-based refund points or 'pop-up' refund points do not form part of the minimum network standards in terms of minimum hours of operation	
WALGA Comment	1 and 2. Support: Pop-up refund points have the potential to capture a large number of containers from events. It is unlikely they can adhere to the minimum hours of operation as required under the CDS Minimum Network Standards and as such should be exempt. WALGA would also suggest that pop-up refund points should also be excluded from the minimum network standards count of refund points required as they cannot meet these requirements.		
Key Issue	Options for consideration:		
Definition of mobile refund point	1. Define a mobile refund point as being a refund point that can be easily moved from location to location as part of a vehicle, connected to a vehicle or carried in a vehicle	2. Mobile refund points are not required to meet the minimum hours of operation designated for flexible refund points	3. Refund point locations nominated in the minimum network standards that are reasonably considered by the scheme coordinator to not be economically viable as stationary refund points can be serviced as mobile refund points.

WALGA Comment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support 2. Conditional Support: A definition of a mobile refund point needs to be included in the Glossary section indicating it is not required to meet the minimum network standard hours of operation for flexible refund points (16 ordinary business hours per fortnight at least eight of which must be weekend hours). Where a stationary refund point is not economically viable but produces a high container return this should be treated as mobile refund points. 3. Conditional Support: Mobile refund points would still need to meet some form of minimum servicing standard/operating hours, approved by the DWER.
----------------------	--

*

1.3 Maximum travel distances

On and from 12 months from the date of commencement, the Coordinator must ensure that the travel distances to a refund point for those persons identified in column 1 of the table in Part 1.3 are no more than those distances specified in column 2 of the table in Part 1.3.

Travel distance to refund point for regional category

Column 1 Regional category	Column 2 Maximum travel distance to refund point
Perth metropolitan area	5 km
Inner regional area	50 km
Outer regional area	100 km
Remote and very remote area	200 km