



MEDIA RELEASE

May 7, 2018

Locals recycle nearly 820,000 containers in three months

The popularity of the new reverse vending machines at Hastings Co-op's Bulk Fuel Depot continues to soar, with 819,502 containers being processed since their installation on February 8. That's nearly 820,000 containers recycled in just three months or an average of 68,300 each week.

Hastings Co-op's chief executive officer Allan Gordon said the take-up has been overwhelming and clearly demonstrates the community cares about the environment and supports the State Government's call to reduce litter.

Hastings Co-op is also planning to phase out single-use plastic bags at its three IGA supermarkets from July 1, with the sale of recyclable bags at the stores sky-rocketing since the announcement last month.

Approximately two million single-use plastic bags are used at Hastings Co-op's Timbertown, Wauchope and Port Macquarie IGAs each year, but moving to a BYO shopping bag culture will mean substantial wins for the environment.

Mr Gordon explained that single-use plastic bags will be progressively phased out from July 1, and a levy will be introduced from October 1. Customers will be encouraged to either bring their own bag or purchase a re-useable bag at the supermarket from October 1.

In regard to the Return and Earn machines in High Street, Mr Gordon reminded customers to always supervise children, not park in the path of vehicles using the Bulk Fuel Depot's bowsers and exercise "common sense and courtesy" towards other recyclers.

"Please be aware that dumpers will be prosecuted and wherever possible, any containers that can't be processed by the reverse vending machines should be taken back home for your yellow bin," Mr Gordon said.

"Please don't leave rubbish, such as boxes, bags and rejected containers behind and read the signs carefully so only applicable containers are put through the machines."

Mr Gordon explained that TOMRA Cleanaway receives an electronic notification as machines near capacity, ensuring they are emptied on a regular basis. Customers can report full machines or other machine issues to TOMRA Cleanaway on 1800 290 691.

The updated myTOMRA App also assists people plan their visits by advising if machines are open, almost full, temporarily unavailable or in sleep mode during out-of-hours operation.

**Media contact -
Executive Manager Sales and Marketing, Nicole Langdon,
Phone: 02 6588 8999, Mobile: 0498 111 353
Email: nicolel@hastingscoop.com.au**

CAPTION -

Turning trash into cash one bottle at a time: Cassidy Langdon presents her vouchers to Timbertown SUPA IGA employee Melissa Ward.

