



Civic Centre  
Harry Chan Avenue  
Darwin NT 0800

GPO Box 84  
Darwin NT 0801

P 08 8930 0300  
E [darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au](mailto:darwin@darwin.nt.gov.au)

Oly Carlson MLA  
Chair  
Legislative Scrutiny Committee  
NT Parliament  
GPO Box 3721  
Darwin NT 0801

Dear Ms Carlson,

On behalf of City of Darwin, I am writing to express support for and highlight additional measures for enhancing the Environment Protection (Beverage Containers and Plastic Bags) Legislation Amendment (Expansion of CDS and Other Matters) Bill 2025.

City of Darwin welcomes the proposed Bill and changes to the Regulations to reduce complexity and increase recycling across the Northern Territory, including broadening the scope of containers in the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to beverage containers of three litres or less in volume, with the result that wine and spirit bottles, plain milk containers and larger size juice and flavoured milk containers of one litre or more will be included.

City of Darwin is committed to reducing waste to landfill, increasing recycling and supporting a circular economy through City of Darwin's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030. City of Darwin manages the Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility (Shoal Bay), which is the NT's largest waste and resource recovery facility, accepting around 200,000 tonnes of waste per year.

City of Darwin supports the expanded CDS as it will:

- Reduce litter in the natural and built environments.
- Divert more recyclable materials otherwise going to landfill due to cross-contamination and other reasons.
- Create more higher-value recycling feed products
- Create additional capacity within the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to increase rate of recycling of transiting materials.



## Suggestions for improvement

City of Darwin suggests the expanded CDS could be improved by increasing the availability of collection points in the Territory and specifically within Darwin where population density is higher and there is still limited availability of collection points.

Opportunities include:

- Increasing the availability of CDS collection points within the Darwin region, and
- Piloting CDS collection points near public housing, such as Smith Street.

Currently there are only nine collection depots within the Greater Darwin area. There is no collection point within the Darwin City Centre, with the nearest being Coconut Grove or Winnellie. This acts as significant barrier to participation in the CDS for residents of the densely populated area, including a higher proportion of people living without access to a private vehicle.

City of Darwin recommends the expansion of the CDS be paired with the addition of new collection points including at least one in the Darwin City Centre. Further, City of Darwin recommends a pilot of CDS collection points near concentrations of public housing, providing avenues for the less advantaged members of our community to participate in the scheme.

Further, City of Darwin recommends continuing with secure, manned depots and cautions against consideration of introducing reverse vending machine-style collection points due to the risk of these being vandalised or otherwise subject to antisocial behaviour.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission. I welcome positive consideration by the Scrutiny Committee.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or our Manager Advocacy and Policy, Scott Walker, on [REDACTED] to discuss.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Simone Saunders  
Chief Executive Officer

15 September 2025

