

# CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE SCHEME PRICE MONITORING – FINAL REPORT

The ERA is Western Australia’s independent economic regulator. We aim to ensure the delivery of water, electricity, gas and rail services in Western Australia is in the long-term interest of consumers. The ERA also undertakes inquiries, which provide recommendations to government on economic issues that are likely to have significant implications for the people and businesses of Western Australia.







## The ERA’s price monitoring role

Western Australian’s container deposit recycling scheme – Containers for Change – started operating on 1 October 2020.

The State Government asked the ERA to monitor the scheme’s effect on drink prices over its first year of operation.

[The ERA published its final report](#) on 24 February 2022.

## Effect on drink prices – Metropolitan region

<b>Non-alcoholic beverages</b>			
Average increase from Containers for Change: <b>13.2 cents</b>	Soft drinks 13.5 cents	Water 12.0 cents	Fruit juice 12.3 cents
<b>Alcoholic beverages</b>			
Average increase from Containers for Change: <b>3.9 cents</b>	Beer 3.3 cents	Ready-to-drink 7.5 cents	Cider 5.7 cents

Regional price changes were similar to those in the metropolitan area, but more variable due to the smaller data set and more volatile regional prices.

## CONTACT US

The Containers for Change scheme is run by Western Australia Return Recycle Renew Ltd (WARRRL). Beverage suppliers pay a fee to WARRRL to fund the cost of running Containers for Change. The fee is based on the number of containers recycled and the material the containers are made of.

The average scheme fee is **12.82 cents** per container. That means that, on average, the drink price increases seen over the first year of the scheme's operation are less than, or very close to, the total cost of running the scheme.

Both the cost of running the Containers for Change scheme, and the average drink price increases, are very similar to those seen in other Australian states that have container recycling schemes.

### ERA recommendation – No need to continue price monitoring

Because of the low number of customer complaints, and the price increases observed over the first year being in line with the cost of running the scheme, the ERA's recommendation to the State Government that further price monitoring is not required.

More information: [www.erawa.com.au/containerdeposits](http://www.erawa.com.au/containerdeposits)

