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Parliament Q&A

Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on BCRS financing model

12 February 2026

Written Reply to Parliamentary Question on the BCRS financing model by Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Sustainability and the Environment.

Question:

Assoc Prof Jamus Jerome Lim. To ask the Minister for Sustainability and the Environment (a) whether the additional 10-cent-per-bottle charge under the NEA-led Beverage Container Return Scheme is channelled to beverage producers to help offset the costs of collecting and recycling empty containers; and (b) why no such cost offset is provided to (i) NEA for funding reverse vending machines and (ii) town councils for utilities costs incurred.

Answer:

The National Environment Agency (NEA) has licensed BCRS Ltd. to operate the Beverage Container Return Scheme. BCRS Ltd. is an industry-led, not-for-profit company incorporated by a consortium of beverage producers.

BCRS Ltd. is responsible for the collection and recycling of returned beverage containers. This includes leasing and deploying Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs), managing the logistics of collecting the empty containers and making payments to partners such as town councils for utility costs incurred by the RVMs. The scheme operator is funded through the producer fees it collects and through the sale of recyclables collected. The 10 cents charge per bottle referred to by the Member would be the deposit refundable to consumers who return the empty bottles to the RVMs under the scheme. Members may wish to refer to the combined reply made on 3 February 2026 when the Scheme was discussed extensively.

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