

19/495 Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC): ACT Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Price Monitoring – Final Report

Summary of Impacts	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICRC’s report into price monitoring of the ACT CDS did not find any impacts on pricing or competition that had arisen from the introduction of the scheme in the ACT. The ICRC made four recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with other jurisdictions to harmonise the ACT CDS with equivalent schemes. Improve transparency over the operation of the scheme. Changing the model through which beverage suppliers fund the CDS. Further monitoring by the ICRC is not required. All recommendations are agreeable and are consistent with work already being undertaken by Transport Canberra and City Services.

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.

Economic

Productivity and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICRC recommended harmonisation across schemes, particularly with NSW, for efficiency and to deliver potential cost savings to industry. Achieving harmonisation across schemes has the potential to increase productivity in the beverage industry through reducing costs and achieving efficiencies through standardising systems and processes.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to reduce cost to industry has the potential to support expansion to business, and subsequent increase in employment.
Small Business Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities to reduce cost to industry has the potential to support expansion to business, and subsequent increase in employment. This would particularly be applicable to ACT based beverage manufacturers who supply to multiple jurisdictions in which a CDS operates.
Investment and Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning regulatory requirements across jurisdictions reduces compliance costs and has the potential to support expansion of local and broader industry. Harmonisation of schemes across jurisdictions can be achieved through legislative and non-legislative change, with widely varying time periods.
Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing costs to industry through harmonisation of schemes may deliver savings to the beverage industry that may be passed through the consumers in cheaper beverage prices.
Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ICRC did not find that there were competition impacts as a result of the ACT CDS. The report identified that while there was currently only one Network Operator for the ACT CDS, there are no legislative barriers to other entrants. Harmonisation could support established operators from other jurisdictions to enter the ACT market, facilitated through common systems and processes across schemes.

Cost of living

- The ICRC's recommendations have the potential to reduce the cost of living, through aligning scheme obligations across jurisdictions, and with subsequent cost savings being able to be passed onto consumers through lower beverage prices.

Environmental**Waste**

- Container Deposit Schemes aim to reduce litter and to encourage recycling and reuse. Harmonisation of schemes across jurisdictions aligned with these aims by providing common operational requirements and a common means by which to measure performance.

Social

Nil impact.