

1 October 2026

ACT Container Deposit Scheme supplier contribution pricing frequently asked questions (FAQs)

What is the current and future fixed price per container by material type?

Material type	Current pricing (cents) applied to invoices issued Feb 2026 to Jan 2027	Future pricing (cents) applied to invoices issued Feb 2027 to Jan 2028
Aluminium	16.50	17.90
Glass	16.27	16.24
HDPE	17.71	18.14
PET	15.34	16.53
LPB (liquid paperboard)	7.76	8.12
Steel	4.74	9.53
Other plastics	3.27	3.27
Other materials	2.78	2.78

Why has the price of most material types increased?

The increase in pricing for most material types reflects the strong volumes we forecast will be redeemed during the pricing period. Our forecast is based on detailed modelling which considers past scheme performance and the latest consumer participation trends.

Why are some material types more expensive compared others?

Scheme pricing by material type reflects the redemption rates and the actual costs of recovery for each material type.

HDPE, aluminium and PET are the most highly redeemed materials in the ACT scheme, which is reflected in the material pricing.

Which invoice does the new pricing take effect?

The new fixed price per material type is effective for 12 months for invoices issued from February 2027 to January 2028 (inclusive).

Invoice – 1 January 2027	Invoice – 1 February 2027
November 2026 actuals, reported on 15 December 2026 to fund January 2027 scheme costs	December 2026 actuals, reported on 15 January 2027 to fund February 2027 scheme costs
Current fixed pricing	New fixed pricing

How are supplier invoices calculated?

Supplier invoices are calculated by multiplying actual historical container volumes supplied and declared by each supplier by the fixed price per material type:

Actual supply volumes (two months in arrears) x fixed price by material type = invoice issued on 1st of the month to fund that month's scheme costs

For example, March volumes reported on 15 April x container price by material type = invoice issued on 1 May to fund May scheme costs. This example is shown in the table below.

Invoice month	May – issued 1 May
Based on actual monthly volume	March actual volumes reported on 15 April
Contribution for	May scheme costs

A supplier can therefore calculate in advance exactly how much their invoice will be before they receive it, as their invoice is based on their supply volumes as reported to EfC.

Is the scheme a cost recovery model?

Yes, the ACT scheme is a cost recovery model. This means that pricing covers the scheme's expected annual operating costs. The scheme does not generate any profit, and surplus or shortfalls of funds from one period are incorporated into the pricing considerations for future periods.

What do supplier contributions fund?

The ACT Container Deposit Scheme is financed through an advanced contribution model to ensure liquidity. This approach ensured that return points, administration services and 10c refunds were available when the scheme launched in July 2018.

As the financial management of the scheme operates on a cost recovery model, every effort has been made to keep pricing low. Supplier contributions only cover the core scheme costs, which include:

- refunds – 10c (including GST) per container, paid to the network operator and passed on to consumers
- network fees – a fixed fee per container collected through return points that is paid to the network operator based on the material type
- MRF refunds – 10c (including GST), paid to the MRF operator for each container collected through kerbside recycling
- export rebates – to refund suppliers for beverage containers exported out of the ACT
- scheme coordinator fee – fixed fee (regardless of volumes collected) for administration carried out by the scheme coordinator
- scheme compliance fee – fixed fee (regardless of volumes collected) paid to ACT Government to cover compliance costs.

What assumptions have been used to forecast scheme performance when setting pricing?

The fixed pricing was developed based on:

- historical supplier volumes and estimated growth in line with population growth
- historical and projected growth in redemptions through the network of return points
- historical and projected redemptions through MRF operators (commercial and kerbside collections)
- network operator handling and processing fees per container
- fixed costs, including scheme coordinator and government compliance fees
- maintaining scheme liquidity.

How are scheme performance and pricing tracked?

Suppliers can track scheme performance each month, including the rolling 12-month redemption rate and monthly supply and collection volumes, on the homepage of the EfC website and selecting the ACT tab.

When will EfC announce the next price review?

EfC intends to announce pricing for the next period in October 2027. This pricing would take effect from the February 2028 invoice.

When will the Small Supplier and Micro Supplier programs commence?

Both programs will commence from 1 July 2027. More information on how current participating suppliers can join the programs will be shared closer to the implementation date.

What are the differences between the NSW Small and Micro Supplier programs and the ACT Small and Micro Supplier programs?

	ACT	NSW
Micro supplier	≤100,000 containers supplied into ACT per year • 7-day payment terms • annual reporting and invoicing • effective from 1 July 2027	≤100,000 containers supplied into NSW per year • 28-day payment terms • annual reporting and invoicing • effective from 1 July 2027
Small supplier	≤300,000 containers supplied into ACT per year • 7-day payment terms • quarterly reporting and invoicing • effective from 1 July 2027	≤1 million containers supplied into NSW per year • 28-day payment terms • quarterly reporting and invoicing • effective from 1 July 2027



Large supplier	300,000+ containers supplied into ACT per year • 7-day payment terms • Monthly reporting and invoicing	1 million+ containers supplied into NSW per year • 7-day payment terms • Monthly reporting and invoicing
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Why isn't the threshold for the ACT CDS' Small Supplier Program the same as the NSW threshold?

The ACT scheme is a much smaller jurisdiction than NSW with significantly smaller supply volumes compared to NSW. We have set the threshold for the ACT Small Supplier Program based on the unique conditions in ACT to ensure sufficient funding to cover scheme costs each month.

I'm a small/micro supplier but prefer monthly reporting and invoicing to manage my cash flow – can I opt out of the Small/Micro Supplier Program?

Yes, you will be able to opt out of the micro or small supplier program and choose monthly reporting and invoicing. More information on how to do so will be provided closer to the implementation date.

Will payment terms be extended in the ACT scheme, like it has been in NSW?

The ACT and NSW schemes are separate schemes with separate supply and redemption volumes and scheme costs. While we have been able to announce an extension of payment terms in NSW from 1 July for small and micro suppliers, payment terms in ACT remain 7 days from date of invoice.

We continue to review our data and modelling to identify additional ways to make it easier for suppliers participating in the ACT scheme, including payment terms.

Are all Australian container deposit schemes still working to harmonise?

Yes – streamlining processes and reducing administrative burden for suppliers is a key focus for all schemes across Australia.

This includes a project currently in progress, led by NSW EPA, to develop a harmonised supplier portal for container approvals.

Get in touch

If you have any questions about pricing or the ACT scheme, please contact our Customer Service Team on 1800 813 887 or customersupport@exchangeforchange.com.au.

Please have your Supplier Arrangement Number (ACT1XXXX) ready, so our friendly team can help with your enquiry efficiently.