

## Coin Change in New Zealand

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# Hundreds of parking meters upgraded as new coins released in New Zealand

**Over the past few weeks New Zealanders have been grappling with nine different coins.**

In July the Reserve Bank of New Zealand released new coins to replace their 10, 20 and 50 cent coins. The new 20 and 50 cent coins are smaller and lighter, the 10c is copper coloured and the 5 cent coin is being taken out of circulation altogether. There is no change to the \$1 and \$2 coins.

The kiwis have until the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2006 to empty their piggy banks of old coins when they will no longer be accepted for payment by businesses and this includes parking meters and vending machines.

CHS Parking Systems, the largest supplier in New Zealand of Pay & Display parking meters and coin mechanisms to the vending industry ensured that their customers were prepared for the coin changeover well in advance.

"We started reprogramming machines six months ago to ensure any disruption to business was kept to a minimum" reports CHS Project Manager Richard Oliver. "There were those that left it to the last minute, but we ramped up our operations to help out the latecomers and in general the coin changeover is going smoothly".

Parking meters capable of accepting both the old and the new coins simultaneously have proven to be of huge benefit to operators. The CHS meters will be reprogrammed again in time to begin rejecting the old coins after 1<sup>st</sup> November says Oliver.

Some meter operators discovered that reprogramming was either unavailable or cost prohibitive on their old meters. Faced with annual budget constraints or insufficient time available to invite Tender Submissions for new equipment CHS has helped out with loan meters. "We blew the dust off some of our second hand 1995 CLASSIC meters and re commissioned these. All of our meters can accept both coin sets," says CHS Managing Director Russell Waite.

Three Councils that chose to purchase new parking machines selected the new METRO Pay & Display launched this year by CHS. "It has been hectic as we have had to install over 600 meters to replace thousands of lollipops and beat that July deadline."



The new NZ coins (bottom row) are much smaller and lighter with the 10c now being copper coloured.



*Pictured at left - The METRO Pay & Display Meter in Takapuna.*

*North Shore City Council selected the new METRO to replace their on street lollipop meters. Over 60 units have been installed and offer customer payment by Credit Card ON LINE, TXT-a-Park and the traditional coin payment.*



'Poppa Smurf' one of North Shore City's friendly Parking Enforcement Officers receives training on the new METRO from CHS Technician Peter Reynolds in Auckland's trendy beachside suburb of Takapuna.