

# Pushing plastic

Recycling is about more than collection; it's about creating market demand, writes Garth Lamb.

Repeat Plastics Australia claims to be the southern hemisphere's biggest producer of products made from recycled mixed plastics – and according to MD Mark Jacobsen is “in the top three” in the world.

Formed in 2001 through the merger of two mixed plastics recycling companies, he adds it has recorded “huge growth”, up to 200 per cent the last two years, with much of the increase surrounding products for coastal councils. The rising price of good quality timber has put the cost of recycled plastic on par with traditional products, with lower maintenance the big selling point for customers.

“We have the ability to take the junk polymers, mix them together with paper and other contaminants, and make a very decent product,” he says, with feedstock coming from council kerbside collections and the commercial and industrial sector. Check out the range.

More at [www.replas.com.au](http://www.replas.com.au) **WME**



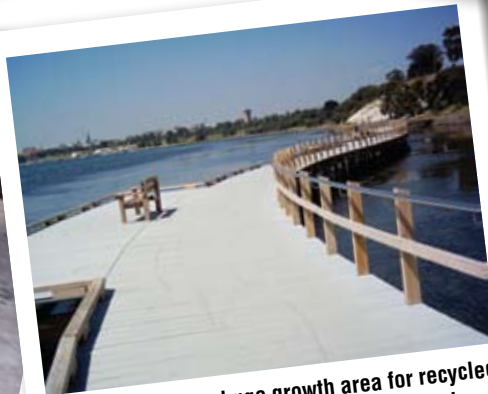
A staple feature of council streetscapes, bollards can be specially designed for individual councils in terms of shape and colour.



The longer life of recycled plastic boardwalks is especially important where maintenance access is difficult. Greater flexibility compared with wooden slats also means less disruption from tree roots or other ground movement.



Reduced maintenance is the driver for growth in plastic furniture – especially for councils constantly sanding graffiti off wooden slats. The molded products can also be shaped to suit specific areas.



Jetty planks are a huge growth area for recycled plastic products, being easier to install and lasting longer than wood because it does not rot and does not require chemical treatment.



Sales of plastic signage products have grown almost 300 per cent in recent years, with the litigation risks associated with hard to read or broken warning signs behind the push to longer lasting plastic products.



A small market, plastic is also replacing concrete as speed humps and wheel stops, due to the greater ease of installation.