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DATE: 15 October 2012

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Small business making a big difference

On Friday 12 October the Hon Brendon O'Connor MP, Federal Member for Gorton and Minister for Small Business, visited The Replas Environmental Centre (REC) in Carrum Downs. He was joined by the Hon Mark Dreyfus QC MP, Federal Member for Isaacs and Parliamentary Secretary for Industry and Innovation. The visit to the Carrum Downs centre demonstrated how this Australian owned and operated small business is making a big difference to the environment.

'I was pleased to be able to visit Replas to discuss the issues that are facing businesses in the greater Frankston area,' Mr O'Connor said.

'The small business sector is the backbone of Australia's economy, and that is as evident here in Frankston as anywhere else.

'Replas is undertaking some inspiring work in environmental sustainability and innovation. I am grateful that Peter Patterson and the Replas team were able to show me the important work they do.'

Peter Patterson, Replas National Sales Manager said, 'The high volume of Australia's plastic waste is causing real problems. We need to change our way of thinking, to see waste plastic as a resource that can be used to make a valuable and long lasting contribution to public infrastructure.

'Replas converts waste plastic into robust and resilient products, which not only reduces landfill, but also saves natural resources. Recycled-plastic products are in many cases price competitive with timber, concrete and metal alternative products. These products offer a competitive alternative to timber, concrete and metal, require little or no maintenance and have a life span in excess of 40 years.'

Mr Patterson called on government to, 'support, by action, the creation and ongoing support of smart industries. Industries that not only contribute to a better environment, but also produce innovative products and create Australian jobs'.

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Company Profile

Since 1991 Australian Recycling Technologies (ART) and Repeat Plastics shared a passion for the environment. Dismayed by the amount of household plastic waste going needlessly to landfill, both companies were simultaneously developing the technology to take this waste material and recycle it. In 2001, these two companies joined forces. Their shared vision resulted in the formation of Replas which combined the unique expertise, products and manufacturing capabilities of both companies.

For 21 years the company has developed world leading technologies to reprocess Australia's waste into a range of over 200 robust recycled-plastic products for outdoor use. These products not only reduce the amount of plastic going to landfill, but also offer an ethical alternative to the unnecessary use of virgin materials.

Waste plastics are delivered to the manufacturing plants in Lilydale and Ballarat for processing. The resulting products are extremely hard wearing and low maintenance. Recycled plastic is resistant to termites, microorganisms and moisture, and it will never split, rot or need painting.

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