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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Replas bucks manufacturing trend

While many Australian manufacturing companies are struggling to survive in this competitive global economy, Carrum Downs plastic recycling company, Replas, is bucking the trend by investing heavily in technology.

The company has developed world leading technology to reprocess Australia's plastic waste into robust recycled-plastic products for outdoor use. In January, their latest fully automatic production line was commissioned at their Lilydale plant and will manufacture a range of recycled-plastic bollards.

The machine, built by the Research & Development department, uses state-of-the-art computerised controllers and robotics to ensure products are produced as efficiently as possible using material that is diverted from landfill or was destined for China.

Liam Pierce, Engineering Manager at Replas said, 'People have the perception that using robots and full automation means they will lose their jobs, but the truth is if our recycled plastic products aren't made as efficiently as possible the jobs will be lost offshore and the company's proactive R&D approach will not be able to be funded.'

Mr Pierce said, 'As jobs are lost in the manufacturing stage more jobs are created in raw material procurement and processing along with fabrication and sales'.

In the last twelve months Replas has created twelve jobs in the Frankston region. Mark Jacobsen, Director, says, 'If councils and government bodies support us by buying our products we can continue to recycle their ratepayers' plastic waste which not only reduces landfill, but also allows us to grow more 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.

Over the past twenty 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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