



**soft landing**  
mattress recycling

[www.softlanding.com.au](http://www.softlanding.com.au)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 11 November 2020

### **Local jobs that care for the planet: Soft Landing recycles half a million mattresses**

National social enterprise Soft Landing recycled almost half a million mattresses across Australia in 2019-20, providing jobs for more than 200 people with barriers to employment.

Announcing the results on National Recycling Week 2020, Soft Landing General Manager Chris Richards said Soft Landing had diverted 7,300 tonnes of waste from landfill, recycling 5,000 tonnes of steel, 1,000 tonnes of timber and 1,300 tonnes of foam.

All materials are kept in Australia.

“We don’t send materials overseas for disposal; we keep our by-products in Australia, support local companies, reduce transport mileage and maximise re-use of materials,” Mr Richards said.

“We send foam to Australian carpet-underlay manufacturers, steel to Australian scrap steel merchants, and timber bed bases to local industry for mulch.”

Soft Landing also provided employment opportunities for 220 people across Australia in 2019-20, 77% of whom have faced some sort of challenge in entering the workforce.

“Working in local communities and providing employment opportunities in those communities is just as important for us as recycling mattresses,” Mr Richards said.

“For every 35 mattresses that we collect and recycle each day, we can create a job for someone who really needs one.”

The social enterprise targets former refugees, young people and Aboriginal people, the three groups most likely to experience barriers to employment.

All three groups are represented among Soft Landing’s ACT operations which employed 32 people in 2019-20.

ACT Supervisor Jason Heron said: “The ACT team are hard workers who have soldiered on and got on with the job this year, despite challenges, to get great results for the community and the planet.

“When the steel press needed replacing the team worked together to keep the site operational. It takes a great group of people to work like that.”

Considered an essential service, Soft Landing has continued its operations across its six sites during COVID-19, including in Victoria during Stage 4 restrictions.

***Creating local jobs that care for the planet***

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It is processing higher-than-usual volumes as industry and community members are replacing mattresses at a higher rate during the pandemic.

### **FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES CONTACT**

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Soft Landing is a national social enterprise that collects and recycles mattresses to keep waste out of landfill and create jobs for people experiencing barriers to work.

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