Press Release

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Soft Landing Product Stewardship Scheme

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You can't recycle a mattress. Why not?

Covestro Australia walks the talk for sustainability in mattress recycling

Covestro Australia along with AH Beard, Sealy, Tempur, Harvey Norman, Domayne, Thermotec, TIC Group, SleepMaker and Joyce Foam Products, have announced to join the Soft Landing Product Stewardship Scheme as founding members to promote a circular economy for mattresses.

Soft Landing is a social enterprise of Resource Recovery Australia, a national not-for-profit organisation turning waste into wages for 25 years. Soft Landing are not only tackling the issue of mattresses ending up in landfill and recovering all the components for reuse, they provide jobs and training for local people who have experienced barriers to gaining lasting employment.

Each year in Australia around 1.6 million mattresses end up in landfill. An average mattress contains 1.5 kg of polyurethane foams[1]. Covestro, the inventor of polyurethane 80 years ago, is a global leader in the field of polyurethane foams and continues to innovate launching cardyon® last year, a polyol which uses 20% CO2 as a raw material.

"I am proud of our association with Soft Landing as one of the key raw material suppliers in the polyurethane foam industry, the circular economy, end of life recycling and reuse promotes greater resource productivity and is just another way Covestro pushes the boundaries of what is possible. We work on solutions to the challenges of our time to make the world a brighter place", says Rebecca Lee, Managing Director Covestro Australia.

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[1] Estimation by Soft Landing. http://www.softlanding.com.au/

“Polyurethane helps to save energy through insulation, increase safety in our cars and adds to daily comfort for furniture and mattresses, thus contributing significantly to the quality of our modern life. It is too valuable to end up in the landfill,” added Rebecca.

In Australia, despite having vast land resources, management of waste is becoming an increasing challenge, however through initiatives like Soft Landing enabling the circular economy these challenges are turned into opportunities, for new materials, jobs and communities.

“We are pleased to have Covestro, as a global leader in polymer materials as a partner of the Soft Landing Product Stewardship Scheme. Soft Landing is a world leading approach and aligning with global partners like Covestro supports our mission”, says Janelle Wallace, Manager of Soft Landing Product Stewardship Scheme.

About Covestro:
With 2016 sales of EUR 11.9 billion, Covestro is among the world’s largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, construction, wood processing and furniture, and electrical and electronics industries. Other sectors include sports and leisure, cosmetics, health and the chemical industry itself. Covestro, formerly Bayer MaterialScience, has 30 production sites worldwide and employs approximately 15,600 people (calculated as full-time equivalents) at the end of 2016.

This press release is available for download from the Covestro press server at www.covestro.com. Photos are available there for download as well. Please mind the source of the pictures.

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