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MEDIA RELEASE

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Soft Landing launches Australia's first Pocket Spring Recycler to tackle growing mattress recycling challenge

Australia's largest mattress recycler, Soft Landing, has launched Australia's first Pocket Spring Recycler at its Smithfield site, introducing new technology to tackle one of the mattress recycling industry's most significant and growing challenges.

The installation is the first of its kind in Australia and the first outside the United States, strengthening Soft Landing's capacity to recover valuable materials as mattress design continues to evolve.

Pocket spring mattresses have become increasingly popular, with their individually wrapped coils providing greater comfort and support. The Australian Bedding Stewardship Council (ABSC) estimates that pocket springs now make up around half of mattresses presented for recycling and could rise to 80–90 per cent within five years.

But their design presents a major challenge at end-of-life. Hundreds of individual steel coils are encased in polypropylene fabric, tightly binding together two otherwise recyclable materials. Until now, separating them efficiently at scale has been difficult, resulting in contaminated steel that can be devalued or rejected by downstream processors as quality requirements increase.

Soft Landing invested in the Pocket Spring Recycler to address this growing challenge and protect the industry-leading recovery outcomes it already achieves, including a recycling and reuse rate of more than 70 per cent and up to 100 per cent landfill diversion.

The new technology mechanically separates the polypropylene fabric from the steel springs, producing cleaner, higher-quality steel for recycling while creating a separate polypropylene stream with potential for future recovery.

David Petrie, Soft Landing General Manager, said the investment represents an important step forward for mattress recycling in Australia.

"The Pocket Spring Recycler is a game changer for mattress recycling in Australia. This technology gives us a practical solution to one of the industry's most complex recycling challenges.

As mattress design changes, recycling technology needs to change with it. This investment strengthens our ability to recover valuable materials, maintain high diversion outcomes and find better solutions for materials that have traditionally been difficult to separate.

It is a clear demonstration of Soft Landing's commitment to innovation, giving our customers confidence that they are partnering with an organisation that is setting new benchmarks for environmental performance and circular economy outcomes."

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soft landing
mattress recycling

Soft Landing is an Aboriginal-led not-for-profit social enterprise and registered charity.
We operate nationally to collect and recycle end-of-life mattresses and create jobs for people facing barriers to work.
We partner with councils, retailers and responsible consumers to keep mattresses out of landfill and materials in use.
www.softlanding.com.au



Soft Landing General Manager David Petrie with Her Excellency the Honourable Sam Mostyn AC, Governor-General of Australia, and Community Resources Co-Chair Indu Balachandran – previewing the Pocket Spring Recycler at Soft Landing Smithfield. Pocket springs separated from mattresses, awaiting recycling in foreground.



Soft Landing staff member operating the Pocket Spring Recycler at Soft Landing Smithfield.



End of life mattresses collected for recycling



Soft Landing staff member removing pocket springs while manually dismantling a mattress



Pocket spring textiles separated from the metal for recycling.



Metal separated from pocket springs to be recycled.