



STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Nicole Lawder MLA: To ask the Minister for Transport and City Services

Ref: Transport and City Services, Annual Report

In relation to: Soft Landing Mattress Recycling

In relation to:

1. Does Soft Landings operate under an Environmental Authorisation? If yes, what is the EA number. If not, what are the conditions of operation e.g., outdoors storage of mattresses, piles of mattresses.
2. Why are there so many mattresses piled up?
3. How is recycling undertaken? Is there specialised machinery?
4. Is the machinery fit for purpose e.g., is the machine to compress bed springs working as intended?
5. Where do the recovered materials go?
6. The Annal Report says 44,870 mattresses were recycled in 2020-21. Does that mean 44,870 mattresses were dropped off/picked up in 2020-21 or is that the total number on site?
7. How many mattresses were dropped off in 2020-21?
8. How many were successfully recycled in 2020-21?

Mr Chris Steel MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. No. Storage conditions are specified in the Waste Facility Licence, which requires that mattresses are stored safely inside the boundary of the facility. As per the Waste Facility Licence, mattress stockpiles must not exceed 5m in height, 10m in width and 50m in length.
2. A range of COVID-19 related factors has impacted operation significantly.

3. Recovery of mattresses involves the following process:
 - a. Mattresses received at site are cut by hand to remove the outer fabric covering from the mattress;
 - b. Internal materials (rubber, felt, polyester, adhesives etc) are removed from the wooden frame;
 - c. The wooden frame is placed in a guillotine which severs the springs separating the steel springs from the wooden frame;
 - d. A steel press is used to compact the steel spring sets;
 - e. A baler is used to bale soft material, including fabric and rubber, for transport to receiving companies.

The specialised machinery used are described in 3.c, 3.d and 3.e above.

4. Yes.
5. Steel is sent to a local metal recycler for further processing. Baled rubber and latex are sent to Sydney for processing and use in underlays and other synthetics products like carpet and rubber tiles. Wood is sent off site to a local recycler for wood chipping.
6. 44,870 is the number of mattresses received by Soft Landing in 2020-21.
7. 44,870.
8. This information is not currently available.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

21/3/22

By the Minister for Transport and City Services, Mr Chris Steel MLA