

## **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle – Miglas High Performance Windows enter the next level of extended manufacturer responsibility**

Miglas had sustainability in mind when it introduced its Take Back program on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, giving customers the chance to return their second-hand windows and doors in an industry-first recycling program.

Miglas estimated that over 80% of its components could be recycled, prompting the decision to offer a hassle-free recycling service to its customers. In this program, Miglas will ensure the remaining 20% of un-recyclable waste will be disposed of in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

About 5 million tons of waste (including hazardous waste) goes into landfill in Victoria each year, and it is estimated that an additional 5.4 million tonnes of waste is recycled<sup>1</sup>. The building sector contributes 40% of the waste that goes into landfill.

Kris Sandvoss, Business Development & Marketing, Miglas Australia comments, "We believe around 50%-70% of this landfill waste can be recycled, and another 20% can be replaced with materials that would be recyclable. Miglas does not want to contribute to unnecessary waste for landfill, so instead we're offering viable alternatives to our customers, essentially making it easier for them to be environmentally aware.

"We know the product and we know the best way to disassemble, reuse and recycle the components, so it makes sense for us to offer this service," Kris says.

It is likely that major components such as timber, glass, aluminium and gaskets etc. can be either reused or recycled, extending the lifespan of each item, which in turn maximises the value and useability of each component. The aluminium can be melted and added to form new profiles, glass and TPE gaskets can be added in the manufacturing cycle of new glass and TPE applications without compromising the physical properties and timber can be recycled for window and door production or other applications. This means that although the window or door has served the occupant's needs, it does not mean the value of the component has expired.

Miglas' products have a life expectancy of 50 years or more when maintained properly. Nevertheless, people's needs change and every products life ends at some stage. That's where windows and doors have to be removed and disassembled efficient.

Kris Sandvoss says, "The Miglas Take Back initiative highlights our commitment to the environment and future generations. Our ambition is to not just to supply a sustainable product. We aim to manufacture, administrate and contribute to environmental efforts at each stage. This starts with an energy saving policy in office and factory, it proceeds with the selection of components and it extends now to the end of a product's life.

"We hope that other companies will follow suite, and that they don't wait for the introduction of regulations by the Australian government. The time to look ahead is now," Kris concluded.

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**For further media information please contact:**

Sven Krister Sandvoss

Business Development & Marketing

Miglas Windows

(03) 9728 3999, [sustainable@miglas.com.au](mailto:sustainable@miglas.com.au) and [www.miglas.com.au](http://www.miglas.com.au)

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<sup>1</sup> Annual Survey of Victorian Recycling Industry 2004-2005. Sustainability Victoria, p.6.