

## **Aussie-made Plastic Lining Creates Local Jobs**

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A widely used plastic lining currently imported from overseas is soon to be manufactured locally, creating many local jobs and supporting Australian industry.

An estimated \$50 million of the high density polyethylene lining is imported every year for use in the irrigation, construction, waste and mining industries.

Australian company Garden City Plastics has invested in a \$5 million upgrade of its Heatherton site in Melbourne's south east where it will manufacture the lining from March 2011.

As a result Garden City Plastics has employed an additional 20 staff and secured the jobs of its existing 250 employees.

Local jobs and businesses will be further supported as Garden City Plastics will source much of its raw materials from Victorian-based and other Australian companies.

Tammy Atkins, Hume Regional Manager with the Industry Capability Network (ICN) explained the advantages of manufacturing the lining in Victoria:

"Until now this product has not been manufactured locally in Australia or New Zealand and imports from Thailand, India or the USA have been subject to risks such as delivery delays." said Ms Atkins. "Local manufacture means the opportunity for customising the product and short runs, and will of course create more local jobs and business."

Graham Brown, Business Development Manager at Garden City Plastics explained that ICN helped identify the opportunity for an Australian company to manufacture the lining.

"ICN identified the fact that almost 20,000 tonnes of plastic lining valued at over \$50 million dollars was currently being imported and that there was an opportunity for a local firm to set up the facilities to manufacture the product." said Mr Brown.

"We were looking to expand our business and this was an ideal fit. ICN was able to help us to understand the local market and we will continue to draw on the organisation's knowledge of local suppliers and opportunities with major projects."

In Victoria, HDPE liner material is predominantly used to contain waste in landfills, to contain ash at brown coal power stations in the Latrobe Valley, as floating cover for waste water ponds at paper mills, as dam lining and to line water channels in Northern Victoria.

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ICN is an independent organisation that supports local industry, helping Australian companies access new business opportunities and supporting the use of local industry wherever possible by assisting buyers and project manager identify competitive local suppliers.

For further comment:

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