

**BRICKWORKS OPENS NEW \$20 MILLION TILE PLANT, PLANS FURTHER EXPANSION**

Clay products and investment company, Brickworks Limited, today opened its new \$20 million tile plant located at Punchbowl, Sydney. The opening was attended by over 200 industry participants.

The new tile plant, combined with the recent acquisition of Eureka Tiles, will give Brickworks an increased annual tile production capacity of two million square metres.

This will make Brickworks Australia's largest producer of floor tiles in a national market of approximately 25 million square metres per annum.

According to Mr Lindsay Partridge, managing director of Brickworks Limited, Brickworks is looking to expand current production capacity substantially to provide competitive Australian products to a market heavily serviced by imports.

"Currently, over 80 per cent of Australian tile market demand is met by imports and we see this as an opportunity to compete with overseas producers, even if they establish Australian operations in the future," said Mr Partridge.

"As Australia has some of the best clays, a highly skilled workforce and relatively cheap energy, we see no reason why there should not be a viable Australian tile industry capable of servicing the home market and exporting abroad.

"For Australian consumers, there are advantages in having more locally produced tiles such as faster delivery times, before and after sales service and technical back up," Mr Partridge added.

Brickworks recently acquired the Eureka Tile operation, based in Ballarat, VIC, for \$12.75 million and the new combined tile operations will trade under the name Eureka Australia.

Brickworks is Australia's third largest producer of bricks and pavers and now the largest producer of floor tiles.

Manufacturing operations are currently in New South Wales and Queensland and exports are to New Zealand and Asia, including Japan.

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