

## NEWS

# Right move on green homes

■ Kym Fuhrmann

BURSWOOD-BASED Right Homes was one of two Western Australian winners at the national Housing Industry Association-Boral GreenSmart Awards, crediting a combination of sustainability and affordability for its win.

Right Homes won the GreenSmart 'project home of the year' award for its 9-star Carbon Neutral Home.

National Lifestyle Villages was the winner of the GreenSmart community development award for its Tuart Lakes Lifestyle Village project.

Right Home's display home in Wesley Avenue, Aveyley, is now for sale and was constructed using recyclable building materials.

The house is carbon neutral, producing more energy than it requires over a year.

"The house is obviously at the top of its field; it's a real showcase on how to build an affordable sustainable home," Right Homes director Gary Wright said. "So many sustainable homes are built with no thought to affordability."

He said among the standout features were the home's water efficiency and its solar passive design.

"The house will operate all year round without the need for heating and cooling," Mr Wright said. "This house will operate anywhere between 18 and 28 degrees year around."

He said Right Homes was aiming to become a market leader in the field of environmentally responsible housing.

"We're also looking forward to our new display home, which will have a few surprises."

National Life Style Villages' Tuart Lakes-Rockingham development was commended for several environmentally friendly features, including water sensitive urban design, provision of non-potable water and effective solar orientation of lots.

NLV credited its success to a business model that allows residents to downsize from their high-maintenance family home.

"We now understand the quality of our homes has met with high acceptance in the marketplace with statistics showing us 42 per cent of NLV residents would have remained in their existing homes if the NLV-style of housing and community living had not been available," NLV chief executive Mike Hollett said.

# Brick production integral to Boral's long-term investment in WA

## ADVERTISEMENT

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST BUILDING AND construction materials supplier, Boral Limited, has a long-term commitment in Western Australia through its ownership of Midland Brick and investment in infrastructure, technology and production facilities.

In its recent strategic review, Boral confirmed its commitment to Western Australia and to its future investment into bricks and masonry products, which it sees as core to its building products business.

Already underway at Midland Brick is the construction of a \$45 million concrete masonry plant at its Middle Swan site.

Due to commence production in early 2011, the plant will more than double current paving output and greatly expand the company's paving range, as well as having greater energy efficiency than current production.

Midland Brick General Manager Sales and Marketing Tom Guthrie said Boral's commitment to clay brick and masonry construction materials had strengthened over time and there was a strong focus by the company on the WA market.

"Since Boral purchased Midland Brick 20 years ago, significant attention has



Midland Brick's Kiln number 11. Boral invested over \$53 million in 2006 to upgrade production facilities at the Middle Swan brickworks.

been paid to our operations and as a result we've been able to become one of the country's most progressive brick makers.

"Through major investment in two new kilns and the new masonry plant under construction, we have expanded our product range, been able to offer our customers additional building materials, and provide our staff with added training and development incentives."

Middle Swan brickworks increase operations to 24 hours, 365 days a year.

Midland Brick is certified by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest brickworks on one site in the world.

Boral is also the largest brick manufacturer and distributor in the USA, and operates the largest brick plant in the country, located in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Midland Brick employees benefit from



CUTS: Greg Pennefather says Enerji's powerbox can provide 8-10 per cent saving on power fuel bills. Photo: Grant Currall

# Horizon deal Enerji boost

■ Dan Wilkie

RENEWABLE energy firm Enerji says an agreement with Horizon Power to install its waste heat conversion technology at Horizon's Carnarvon power station will demonstrate its cost saving capabilities and provide impetus to commercialise the equipment.

Enerji's technology, called the Powerbox, works by capturing waste heat produced via industrial processes, including power generation, and converting it to electricity.

Applied to a diesel generator, the Powerbox can provide an 8-10 per cent saving on fuel, making it particularly attractive for remote mine sites powered by diesel generators, which are typically only 38-40 per cent efficient.

The Powerbox can be applied to any industrial process that produces heat, including waste heat from brick kilns, aluminium refineries, steel smelters, silicon plants, foundries, as well as power generators.

Swedish company Opcon developed the technology and Enerji has the exclusive rights to distribute it in Australia, and holds options for Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and sub-Saharan Africa.

Enerji managing director Greg Pennefather said the agreement signed early this month with Horizon Power to integrate Enerji's Opcon Powerbox into Horizon's Carnarvon power station was a significant step forward in the firm's efforts to commercialise