

## 17 February 2009

Company Announcements Australian Securities Exchange

## Brickworks Limited completes divestment of its interest in Brickworks Investment Company Limited

Brickworks Limited ("**Brickworks**") has today completed the divestment of its entire 13.2% shareholding in Brickworks Investment Company Limited ("**BKI**") (ASX:BKI) with the sale of 51.7 million shares at 86 cents per share. Net sale proceeds totalled approximately \$44.0 million.

The sale of Brickworks' holding in BKI is the result of a decision by the Brickworks board that the investment in BKI was non-core to Brickworks' operations and in the current market it is prudent to use the funds to further strengthen Brickworks' balance sheet.

Brickworks successfully secured new bank facilities last year, including a facility which replaced \$165m of Reset Preference Shares ('PAVERS') redeemed in early December 2008. The funds from the sale of BKI will reduce some of that debt and provide Brickworks with increased capacity to take advantage of potential opportunities in its core business that may arise in the current environment.

During the past six months Brickworks has taken strong measures to control inventory levels, including many of its operational sites enduring extended periods of shutdown. Due to the improved inventory levels, the company is now in a far stronger position to operate the majority of its on line plants at close to capacity during the remainder of 2009 and take advantage of potentially improved market conditions by providing continuous supply and superior service to its customers. To this end it is imperative that adequate working capital is available.

Brickworks' Managing Director, Lindsay Partridge, said: "The sale of Brickworks interest in BKI strengthens the company's balance sheet and enables us to capitalise on opportunities in our core businesses."

The sale was completed by way of a book build to institutional and retail shareholders. Pitt Capital Partners advised Brickworks Limited on the sale. Goldman Sachs JB Were and ABN AMRO Morgans were joint lead managers to the book build.

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