



MEDIA RELEASE

24 NOVEMBER 2009

BRICKWORKS DIVERSIFIED STRENGTH TO DELIVER SOLID PROFITS

Brickworks Limited (ASX: BKW) held its 75th Annual General Meeting today and after delivering a record result in 2009, shareholders were told to expect another solid performance in the coming year.

Mr Robert Millner, Chairman of Brickworks noted that the company's diversified business model has delivered solid returns and stability to shareholders and that it has consistently outperformed the All Ordinaries Accumulation Index over the longer term.

Solid Result in FY2009

Brickworks' normalised profit for the year ended 31 July 2009 was \$113.7 million, up 5.1%, with the final dividend of 26.5 cents per share fully franked to be paid on 9 December 2009.

Both Building Products and Land and Development were affected by the economic downturn and while they consequently produced lower results, Investments achieved a strong result up 158.5% on the previous year to \$95.4 million. This resulted in overall Earnings before Interest and Taxes (EBIT) of \$165.8 million, down 6.9% on the previous year.

First Quarter FY2010 Trading Update

First quarter sales revenue for the Building Products Group increased by 2.7% compared to the prior quarter, however this remains in line with the previous corresponding period.

First quarter EBIT for the Building Products Group was \$11.3 million (unaudited), an increase of 25.0% on the same period last year on improved margins due to higher average selling prices and lower manufacturing costs.

Significant Events after Year End

The Share Purchase Plan (SPP) that was announced in September 2009 resulted in shareholder acceptances totalling \$174.4 million. These proceeds have been used to reduce net debt to \$230.0 million and to further strengthen Brickworks' balance sheet with Net Debt to Capital Employed now at 13.0%. The SPP also dramatically increased the number of shareholders that will in turn improve stock liquidity.

Outlook

The Building Products Group, in particular Austral Bricks™, experienced initial signs of increased activity during November, with increased sales from the Building the Education Revolution and social housing programs. These programs will underpin construction activity through to 2011 by which time it is anticipated investors, as well as second and third home buyers will have returned to the housing market.

Land and Development will provide a diversified earnings stream over the longer term, however it is anticipated that returns will be lower in the current year.

Returns from Brickworks' Investments are expected to be solid once again this year. The special dividend and higher final dividend from Washington H. Soul Pattinson (WHSP) of \$45.0 million will be received by Brickworks on 7 December 2009. The value of Brickworks' shareholding in WHSP was \$1.360 billion at 20 November 2009, an increase of 20.9% from \$1.125 billion at 31 July 2009.

With low gearing, a strong balance sheet as well as a diversified business model, Brickworks' outlook for the coming year is for another solid result boosted by a recovery in Building Products and significantly lower borrowing costs.

BRICKWORKS LIMITED (ASX CODE: BKW) www.brickworks.com.au

Brickworks, Australia's largest brick manufacturer, has brands including Austral Bricks™, Austral Masonry™, Bristle Roofing™, Eureka Tiles™ and Auswest Timbers™. Brickworks has paid a dividend every year since listing on the ASX in 1961.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

MR LINDSAY PARTRIDGE, MANAGING DIRECTOR TEL: (02) 9830 7800

MR ROBERT MILLNER, CHAIRMAN, BRICKWORKS LIMITED TEL: (02) 9232 7166

MEDIA INQUIRIES: REBECCA PIERCY 0422 916 422