

## **NEW BRICK PLANT A WIN FOR SHAREHOLDERS, CUSTOMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**



Jim Hill (National Engineering Manager), Peter Caughey (General Manager Austral Bricks Victoria) and Lindsay Partridge (Managing Director Brickworks Limited).

The lighting of the kiln in the new Wollert West brick plant signals the culmination of seven years of restructuring the Austral Bricks™ business in Victoria. The execution of this vision has required an enormous investment of time, effort and capital but delivers a sustainable long-term business for Brickworks.

The restructure has made the business more efficient in its use of capital, labour, resources and energy. This restructuring plan has been self funding with more value extracted than has had to be reinvested.

The rationalisation of Brickworks' manufacturing facilities has released significant parcels of land for re-development. Proceeds to date from property sales total \$117.3 million. As a result of the closure of the Craigieburn and Summerhill factories a further 180 hectares of net developable area will be made available. A submission has been made to the Victorian government to have this land re-zoned for residential purposes which would significantly increase the value of this land.

The Board of Brickworks approved the construction of a new plant, Wollert East, in 2004 to replace the obsolete Scoresby plant. This initial investment provided a state-of-the-art factory that has consistently performed in excess of design specifications.

