



CONCRETE IDEA: Tasmanian businessman John Harrison with one of the building blocks. **Picture: WILL SWAN**

Recycling in bricks

A Tasmanian businessman believes the State's huge magnesite resource can be used in the production of sustainable bricks and building blocks.

Developer John Harrison's firm TecEco Ltd has been exhibiting his blocks at the Business Incubator Inventors And Innovators Expo at the Queen Victoria Museum.

He said reactive magnesia could be produced in Tasmania and used as the cement for bricks and blocks made from waste materials.

"Mixing and matching waste is a skill we have here in Tasmania," he said.

Waste products that could be used include bottom ash from

APPM and silica flour and fly ash.

Mr Harrison said that architects were keen to use sustainable structures but further research and development needed to be done.

Funding of up to \$3 million was needed to build a plant to produce reactive magnesia.

"We also need to do more work to satisfy engineers on the specifications, such as how strong it is and how heat resistant," he said.

Mr Harrison said less greenhouse gases were produced when reactive magnesia was used in the production of bricks than in conventional cement.

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