Recycling in bricks

A Tasmanian businessman believes the state’s huge aggregate resource can be used in the production of sustainable bricks and building blocks.

Developer John Harrisson’s firm Tri-Bloc Ltd has been exhibiting his bricks at the Business Incubator Inventors And Innovators Expo at the Queen Victoria Museum.

He said reactive magnesium 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 fume 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 magnesium.

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

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