ENVIRONMENTAL *efficiency and business*

Tasmanian technology set to 'change the world'

THE managing director of a Tasmanian company, TecEco Pty Ltd, John Harrison, believes his company has a technology that will not only change the world but also put Tasmania back on the track to prosperity.

The technology, called eco-cement, is a new environmentally friendly, carbon neutral, low-energy, high waste-using, low-cost and recyclable cement with the potential, according to the company, to reverse global warming.

Mr Harrison said eco-cement would:

- Reverse climate change.
- Utilise waste.
- Save billions in bridge and wharfage replacement costs.
- House the homeless in underdeveloped nations by providing a building method that used waste, was low cost and simple to use.

"An important factor in getting Kyoto under way as one of the principle arguments put forward by underdeveloped nations is perceived negative economic side effects in relation to reducing fossil fuel consumption," Mr Harrison said.

"Using a carbon-based system to create the built environment not only would result in a great deal of sequestration, but provide economic benefits as well.

"The potential for sustainability in relation to the built environment is enormous.

"According to the Australian Federal Department of Industry Science and Tourism, buildings are responsible for some 30 per cent of the raw materials we use, 42 per cent of the energy, 25 per cent of water, 12 per cent of land use, 40 per cent of atmospheric emissions, 20 per cent of water effluents, 25 per cent of solid waste and 13 per cent of other releases.

"By developing a carbonate cementitous material that is CO2 neutral, is substantially made from wastes, low energy, low cost and recyclable and that can easily and cheaply be made into building materials, TecEco Pty. Ltd. has created a solution to a range of problems – global warming, climate change, cost-effective housing for the masses and global waste problems..

"These are surely four of the most pressing dilemmas facing the ever-rising number of inhabitants of earth.

"If a major science organisation had developed the material it would probably have taken 20 years to develop (Portland cement took over 100 years).

"TecEco Pty Ltd is a small Tasmanian company and is almost at the commercial stage – and it took just a few short years.

"Our technology is entirely compatible with Portland cements and blends can be achieved that are as strong or as sustainable as required.

"Not only that, many blends are corrosion resistant in a manner not contemplated by Portland cement scientists, yet remain compatible with the stated objectives of the cement industry.

"TecEco has the support of one the world's leading materials scientists, Prof Fred Glasser, who said that the technology represented one of the few recent advances in inorganic cements which were suitable for large volume production.

" Another leading materials scientists, Dr Kwesi Sagoe-Crentsil, from the CSIRO, said that the theoretical basis of the proposed eco-cement is logical and the economic and environmental benefits appear excellent."

One of the challenges facing John Harrison as managing director is to convince enough people in government and industry that what the company have developed is indeed of great importance to the world and that something must be done.

John Harrison said: "A giant step in thinking outside the box from the top down is required."