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Office of the Chief Executive

PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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EDGEWOOD ESTATE WINS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AWARD

The environmentally sensitive Edgewood residential estate in north Wollongong has won the 2007 Master Builders Association (MBA) National Environment & Energy Efficiency Building Award – Civil Construction.

The MBA judges said the estate is a “Fine example of environmental management that covered all bases – protection of the fauna and flora and re-generation, recycling of fill left from the brickworks process, with all salvageable material cleaned and reused. It’s an excellent benchmark project”.

At Edgewood, a \$1.5 million habitat and breeding program was established for the endangered Green and Golden Bell frogs which were discovered on the development site. Edgewood now houses the largest frog habitat in Australia.

The Village Building Co. (VBC) Chief Executive, Bob Winnel, says “We are committed to the highest environmental standards in all of our developments. Our frog habitat has been a remarkable success, and we’ve set aside an additional \$1 million to ensure its long term viability.”

A VBC plan to restore 30 hectares of escarpment to provide additional land for eco-housing and an expansion of the frog habitat will go to public exhibition in early 2008.

At Edgewood, VBC worked closely with Wollongong City Council and the Department of Land and Water Conservation to restore two creeks into waterways. This process involved rebuilding watercourse contours with rockworks and planting more than 50,000 native plants. The watercourses provide a valuable community amenity and are monitored weekly to maintain water quality.

Edgewood is one of the largest recycling and decontamination projects ever undertaken in the Illawarra area. More than one million cubic metres of fill left over from the brickworks was reused and 31,000 tonnes of brick rubble recycled bringing the total development cost to \$20 million.

“Environmental sustainability is at the core of all our business. Reducing the environmental impacts through design and careful integration is a key aim for us” said Mr Winnel. Each development is landscaped to integrate the built form with the natural environment and create surroundings with a community focus.

VBC specialises in transforming old industrial sites into thriving communities. The company is now turning its attention to a similar project, restoring the Bulli Brickworks site into a high quality residential and commercial development.

‘The Foothills’ is VBC’s earliest example of a fully landscaped high density affordable housing in the Illawarra. It contains a detention basin which provided a catchment during the August 1998 floods, which resulted in the area avoiding damage from the floods.

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