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From the top: A shot of the Pilkington site.



Dandy icon: The famous Pilkington water tower could sport a new logo.

Hot stuff: Chris Barker, pictured beside the 'hot end' molten glass furnace, is excited at the merger of Pilkington and DMS Glass.

Pictures: Ted Kloszynski

Boom period

By Michael Randall

PILKINGTON'S amalgamation with DMS Glass to form super company Viridian is set to cause a revolution in the glass industry and create new jobs and innovations at the Dandenong plant.

CSR Limited bought the two companies last year and has made a \$1 billion-plus commitment for more sustainable, market-responsive building products and technologies.

Hot on the heels of work beginning on the Dandenong plant's \$130 million upgrade,

Glass companies' merger set to create new jobs

the merger will provide "innovation, new skills, new jobs and new products, with a focus on the environment", says general manager for marketing and national sales Chris Barker.

"It's a huge investment that flows from CSR's acquisition of the two businesses and desire to drive forward the glass business.

"Australia has a low penetration of energy-efficient glass

in windows and we expect, with the current focus on reduction of greenhouse gases, to see the demand increase significantly, having very positive aspects for the glass industry.

"Our new batch plant is about to be completed as part of the redevelopment and we will then see the float line revamped."

Mr Barker said the redevelopment of the Pilkington site, which has been at Greens Road

since 1962, involved the installation of the first pyrolytic coater in the southern hemisphere.

"It applies an energy-efficient coating which creates a new glass suitable for inclusion into double-glazed units, improving the window's performance."

Under the direction of executive general manager John Hodgkinson, Viridian will operate within CSR's Performance Systems Group.

"The launch of the new brand provides us with an opportunity to take a fresh approach to glass and the market we are in."

"Ultimately, we see our investment in Viridian reaping huge benefits for our community." Greater Dandenong Mayor John Kelly said the merger could have "significant benefits" for the city.

"The planned expansion reinforces Dandenong's

strength as one of the nation's major manufacturing locations," he said.

The council would welcome the opportunity to work with Viridian to ensure its continued success in Greater Dandenong.

SEE Allstaff wins Regional Premier Business Awards, page 6