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To all interested parties.

My name is Ricky Holmes, I am the owner of a steel fabrication/engineering workshop located on Settlers Road Tyrendarra Vic.

When I commenced this business, which is situated on a rural property owned by my sister and myself in March 2003, I worked out of a shed which measured an area of 162 square metres, with just myself, one more person and very limited machinery.

As the business grew, I have extended the workshop which now covers an area of 530 square metres.

As demand of my work increased, I purchased a lot more equipment to enable me to meet demand and to give me a bigger range of work that I am able to do. Examples of the machinery purchased include guillotine, CNC press brake, lathe, mill, MIG and TIG welders pedestal drill, band saw, punch and shear, plate and section rolls, CNC plasma cutter, gantry crane and numerous other pieces of equipment.

Please note I ONLY HAVE A SWER LINE (1WIRE) coming onto the property as 3 PHASE (3 WIRES) is not available or perhaps I should say it does not run past the property to allow me to connect. My work consists of fabricating structural steel for sheds, houses etc., repair work for trucking companies, quarry operators, farming operations including dairy, beef, sheep and abalone. We also do work for fertiliser companies and their spreading contractors. Other companies we do work for include BlueScope Steel and Keppel Prince Engineering. As the blue gum harvesting is in full production, we are getting a lot more work in our field. While this is happening, we have more jobs coming in and I have to suggest they may have to go somewhere else or they will have to wait as all the staff are constantly busy, this is a loss of income to both myself and my local economy. I hate to have to constantly turn away work.

I have never advertised for business, we attract business purely on our reputation.

AS 95 % of the equipment and used requires 3 phase power to operate, we have to run some machinery through a convertor (this convert's single-phase power to 3 phase power) and a 3 phase diesel powered generator.

Due to demand for my expertise I have to turn away work and therefore send \$\$\$\$ elsewhere which therefore does not benefit me or my local economy. I currently employ 3 tradesmen and 1 apprentice in the workshop.



Because of the lack of 3 phase power we are not as productive as we want to be, for example when one person is using one 3 phase powered machine; to start another 3 phase machine simultaneously we have to start the diesel powered generator.

Due to the hassle of not being able to switch on machinery when needed and the lack of reliable power, this is impacting on my business and our turnaround times. As stated already I must pass up work because I do not have enough staff due to lack of power capacity to cater for the customers' requirements.

Another limiting factor to my business is that I operate on a shared supply line with a dairy farm, we both experience power problems when both parties are using the power.

My current turnover is approximately between \$400,000 and \$500,000 for the last 6 months.

This would increase dramatically if I had more staff but because I am limited as how many machines I can run concurrently; I cannot employ any more staff.

If 3 phase power becomes available, I would invest in more machinery (larger in capacity to handle bigger jobs).

With my current power supply, I feel that the business has reached its maximum capacity in machinery and employees. To sum up I am at a financial standstill due to my lack of acceptable power supply.

Yours faithfully

Ricky Holmes