



Queensland Communities in transition

Barcaldine Welding Works Small business benefiting from renewable energy

Barcaldine Welding Works run by Darryl and Leanne Kelly is a successful small business providing metal fabrication and welding services to the Barcaldine region.

The work is relatively energy intensive by nature as the equipment use for metal fabrication such as drills, bandsaws, welders, folders and guillotine are all energy hungry. This resulted in the energy bill being a large expense for the small company.

With the rising cost of electricity especially out in regional Queensland and the ongoing drought reducing the demand for work, Darryl and Leanne needed to stay competitive so looked at opportunities to reduce their electricity costs.

They installed a 6.9kW solar system and have slashed their energy bills by two thirds.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Installed a 6.9kW solar system
- Upgrading highbay lights to LED lights
- Better visibility within the shed while using less energy
- Cut energy bills by 60%
- Paid for itself in less than 4 years.

**BARCALDINE
WELDING WORKS**

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Barcaldine Welding Works took control of the rising energy costs into their own hands by installing solar power and upgrading the lights allowing them to remain competitive and to continues to provide ongoing employment to the community.

They installed a 6.9kW system on the roof in 2015 which paid for itself in 4 years through reduce energy costs.

In addition, they upgraded the 400W highbay lights for the works shed to 150W LED lights reducing energy costs from lights by over 50%. A side benefit is that the lower energy using LED lights even provided brighter light than the old highbay lights increasing visibility in the workplace.

Before these upgrades the company was paying between \$1,300-1,400 per quarter and now only pay \$300-400 per quarter in electricity bills cutting costs by over two thirds.

"A lot of small businesses have to look at anything to reduce costs and to keep their head above water. Energy is one of those costs." Darryl Kelly, owner.

This case study is part of a series of case studies that have been developed as part of the Queensland Communities in Transition Program. Prepared by The Ecoefficiency Group as part of Clean Growth Choices Consortium with funding from Queensland Department of Environment and Science, 2019 For further information, visit www.cleangrowthchoices.org

