

11th May
2015

BUSINESS — COREX PLASTICS

NATIONAL BROADBAND

Companies pay to avoid falling through a gap in the net

COREX Plastics is forking out \$30,000 for the internet speed it needs - despite the National Broadband Network cable running right past its door.

The Dandenong company's managing director Simon Whiteley made the decision to invest in a fibre optic connection late last year.

He said initial NBN plans forecast a connection to the site by the second quarter of this year.

"That hasn't been updated since 2013. The current work log is still not showing this area," he said.

"Productivity was being reduced because of the inept bandwidth available.

"It was a cost that we could no longer bear.

"I know it's in the ground because I've seen it. It goes right past the door.

"Any new estate, they automatically get it, whereas we don't.

"It's not feasible for us to move 500 metres down the road in order to capture that. It would have cost me millions of dollars."

The South East Melbourne Manufacturers Alliance (SEMMA) president said sending large files such as computer-aided design (CAD) drawings was key to his business.

"While you do that upload, your download performance is restricted," Mr Whiteley said.

"That's where the productivity's lost. People will be waiting.

"We need to have that bandwidth. We need to have that connectivity.

"There's enough barriers to work with other businesses. It's about moving forward with data.

"We're becoming far more a connected world."

Mr Whiteley gave 3D printing as an example. If a machine part fails he has to order a new one from

Europe.

In the meantime, the supplier could send him the specifications to 3D print a temporary part to keep the business moving.

"To do that I need to have good digital connection," he said.

"From a browser point of view, current ADSL is fine. There's no need for fibre optic to homes now.

"There's a business case, it's affecting the productivity of the country."

The Journal spoke to Mr Whiteley following a report on the economic effects of lack of National Broadband Network (NBN) access.

Southern Melbourne Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee and Greater Dandenong, Kingston and Frankston councils released it on 27 April.

They are using the results to urge NBN Co to review its rollout priorities.

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BUSINESS

COREX PLASTICS. WITH NATIONAL BROADBAND

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JOURNAL

Recycling plastics company sustains quality effort

By CASEY NEILL

For the second year running, Corex Plastics was among finalists for the Large Manufacturer of the Year at the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame awards.

The Dandenong company didn't take home an award from the Thursday 9 June gala dinner but managing director Simon Whiteley was still pleased to be recognised as an exemplary manufacturer.

He said the nomination was recognition of the dedication and innovation by staff to be the best in polymer sheet production in Australia, and more specifically Melbourne's south-east.

"Sustainable business practices aren't about awards but the dedication of the employees, and best practice to keep us at the top of our game as market leaders and ahead of the competition," he said.

"While the award is a public recognition, the build up to this point has been developing for many years and through the continued success of the business in a highly competitive market place.

"It is a nod to this dedication by all staff that we have been nominated in consecutive years."

Corex was established in 1985 and is now the country's largest manufacturer of hollow profile and solid polypropylene and HDPE sheet products, and the number one manufacturer of twin wall profile fluteboard sheet.

The company recycles up to 20 tonnes of plastic each day, and its new products have about 50 per cent recycled content.

Mr Whiteley said plastic was more recyclable than cardboard.

"We want to divert stuff away from landfill and back into the plant," he said.



Corex managing director Simon Whiteley. 131596

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

COREX PLASTICS.

A FINALIST FOR THE LARGE MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR AT VICTORIAN MFG HALL OF FAME AWARDS.

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