

H M GEM ENGINES

RE CONDITIONING OF OLD ENGINES

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Star

Tax blow for business - tip

By MELISSA MEEHAN

A DANDENONG businessman has described the introduction of a carbon tax as an "absolute disgrace".

HM Gem Engines owner Bruce Parker said the tax would have a big impact on his 50-year-old family business.

"To introduce a carbon tax at this time is an absolute disgrace," he said.

Mr Parker lashed out at the Federal Government's carbon tax while giving Shadow Minister for Innovation, Industry and Science Sophie Mirabella and Senator Mitch Fifield a tour of his business.

Mr Parker said it would make it harder for manufacturers in the south east, and many had some dark days ahead.

"We've had to look at the way we do things and make some changes," Mr Parker said.

"Anyone who thinks there will be no extra costs is living in cuckoo land - it defies logic."

He said the carbon tax would substantially affect the bottom line of his business.

HM Gem Engines reconditions old engines for resale, which Mr Parker described as a green form of manufacturing.

He said the carbon emissions of reconditioning an engine was just five per cent of the emissions released when build-



HM Gem Engines automotive machicist Terry Kittlety, general manager Jim Conway, MP Sophie Mirabella and MP Mitch Fifield at the factory. 84027

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

ing an engine from scratch.

"We will work through the next six months and then have another look mid way through the financial year," he said.

"With our electricity alone, that will go up 20 per cent - which is about \$150,000 across our offices nationally.

"This is the biggest change to our business since the 1970s."

Ms Mirabella echoed Mr Parker's sentiment and said that if the Liberal Party was elected during the next election they would repeal the carbon tax because they wanted to support manufacturers.

"Damage has occurred and is occurring already," Ms Mirabella said. "That's why we hope an election comes sooner rather than later."

Labor Member for Isaacs Mark Dreyfus described the carbon price as a manageable economic reform that would modernise industry and protect the environment.

"It's the right thing to do," he said. "It is designed to drive massive new investment in clean, renewable energy and will modernise existing industries."

Engine reconditioner shows it has a drive for success

By CASEY NEILL

Dandenong's HM GEM Engines has been hailed as Victoria's finest engine reconditioning business.

General manager Dean Taylor accepted the 2016 Best Engine Re-conditioner nod at the inaugural Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) Industry Awards on Saturday 7 May.

The state's automotive industry peak body presented 21 awards at a gala dinner in the Plaza Ballroom at the Regent Theatre in Melbourne, attended by more than 500 people.

HM GEM general manager Dean Taylor proudly accepted the honour.

"It's a great achievement for the company and certainly a fitting reward for (managing director) Bruce (Parker) and all the hard work he's put in," he said.

Mr Taylor has been with the company for 20 years after starting as an apprentice automotive machinist and fitter and turner.

"Like most young guys I was interested in engines and cars," he said.

Over the years he's completed leadership and skills courses, plus a business management diploma - "all supported by the company".

"Bruce has a very high commitment to training and promoting from within," Mr Taylor said.

VACC executive director Geoff Gwilym said HM GEM Engines' long-term commitment to supporting the disadvantaged was exceptional.

"VACC initiated the Industry Awards to recognise and promote those businesses that set the bar high and go above and beyond," he said.

"HM GEM Engines certainly does that."

A panel of expert judges assessed more than 200 award applications on customer service, training, occupational health and safety, environmental compliance, and more.

"In the face of strong competition, customers can be assured that any business winning a VACC Industry Award this year is a quality business," Mr Gwilym said.

"Clearly HM GEM Engines is in that category."

The award win followed Mr Parker being inducted into the Greater Dandenong Hall of Fame at the Premier Regional Business Awards at Sandown Greyhounds in Springvale on 13 April.



VACC president Peter Savage with HM GEM Engines general manager Dean Taylor.

HM GEM Engines also made the top four in the guest-voted Premier Regional Business Award.

It started in a small garage in 1969 and now has 14 branches throughout Australia's east coast.

Ten years ago, passenger car engine re-manufacturing generated 85 per cent of its business.

"We could see that engine re-manufacturing was going to be a sunset industry," Mr Parker said.

The remaining 15 per cent was in specialist

machining.

"We thought there was going to be growth in that," he said.

The ratio today is 25 per cent exchange engines and cylinder heads and 75 per cent specialist engine component servicing/machining.

The company has 14 apprentices under training and has taken on about 460 over the years.

It has also employed more than 350 people with disabilities.

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