

Barwicks Tasmania

The **Enterprise Growth Program** helps eligible Tasmanian businesses to identify, evaluate and invest in projects or activities that will significantly improve their performance, growth and productivity.



case study



Barwicks Tasmania

Barwicks Tasmania is turning wood waste into much-needed products for Tasmanian industry which in turn is creating a positive impact on the environment.

Barry and Jan Barwick developed Barwicks in 1977. The company employs more than 20 people, servicing all areas of Tasmania in the landscaping industry. Barwicks has two retail sites; one in Granton and the other in Mornington.

“Our core business is mulching and producing bark,” Barry said. “We’re a landscape business processing and supplying bark to nurseries around the state.”

Barwicks was seeking assistance to significantly improve its performance, growth and productivity by engaging the latest production methods through the acquisition of a CBI mulcher.

A \$50 000 grant through the Enterprise Growth Program helped Barwicks purchase its new \$1 million mulcher.

New ways to process wood waste

A key component of Barwick’s growth strategy was to access new market opportunities. The CBI mulcher processes wood waste and recycles associated products that would have otherwise become landfill.

Barwicks is creating saleable goods from waste, supplying companies and industries with much-needed products and creating positive environmental outcomes.

The purchase of the CBI mulcher came out of an opportunity to do some work for a large Hobart-based company.

“We had a contract to do about 250 000 metres of wood waste but the two mulchers we had weren’t good enough to do the job,” Barry said.

The wood waste at the site had a lot of steel contamination so new equipment was needed to separate the steel from the wood as it was being mulched.

“To secure this contract we had to get a new machine. The machine cost about \$1 million. If we hadn’t got that contract, we wouldn’t have been able to afford the machine so luckily the die fell our way.

“For about 1 000 metres of wood mulch we’d get about a tonne of steel out. That’s a fair bit of steel!”

The machine is extremely efficient. Ten years ago when Barry and Jan started the business, it took six weeks to mulch around 5 000 tonnes. Four years ago a new machine was purchased allowing the same amount to be mulched in a week. With the new CBI mulcher, it only takes two days.

On the back of this contract, Barwicks is able to win other contracts and increase production.

“We’ve picked up a couple of contracts with Hobart City Council tip and Glenorchy City Council and increased our own work, so we’re running at maximum capacity now.”

“Some of these projects include mulching wood pellet waste and colouring the wood pellets and selling them back out,” Barry said.

The future

It is anticipated that six new full-time positions will be created within two years and that new import replacement sales and sales to exporting customers, will be valued at \$1.6 million over the same period.

By purchasing the new CBI mulcher, Barwicks has created new saleable products from material that was once regarded as waste, is employing more Tasmanians and is contributing to the supply chain of major Tasmanian exporters.

Barwicks has now employed two extra full-time staff and three part-timers as a result of purchasing the new machine.



Can we help you?

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Department of Economic Development,
Tourism and the Arts
Business Programs
GPO Box 646
Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

Phone:
1 800 440 026

Web:
www.development.tas.gov.au

Email:
businesspoint@development.tas.gov.au