

We are dairyfarmers who rely on irrigation to grow our grass. We use irrigation in the cheapest tariff, which not only is the cheapest but also the most efficient use of water to produce grass to maintain production. We feel that we are effective users of electricity and water and this substantially is a huge part of our cost of production. We are sick of trying to absorb these price increases. In the past 4 years we have only had one price rise for our milk, however we have had several price increases for our electricity. We obtained a loan to put solar panels on our house and on our dairy to help with the electricity price rise. The rebate we get is so low it doesn't even cover the increased prices. As primary producers we are price takers not makers and we do everything we can to absorb costs and to cut costs, there is nothing left to absorb or to cut. If the price of electricity continues to rise we will then be forced to review our options and that would mean to seriously consider exiting the industry. There are only 48 dairyfarmers left on the Tablelands from 200 in 2000, this should surely send a clear message to everyone that it is getting harder to break even let alone make a profit. Seriously guys it is time to support and help farmers to continue to allow them to bring food to your plate. It would be easy to say let's just get a job and not have the stress of getting up each and every day at 4am to milk the cows, wonder where we are going to get extra money to pay all our increasing bills and just do 9 – 5 and relax or whatever for the other hours in each day, but we love our job and we love our industry and are proud to supply good quality milk to Australians each and every day. It's time we were looked at as producers who are providing a quality product and that should be helped not hindered.