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Bronwyn Dwyer, Manager, Tableland CANEGROWERS Ltd and Joe Moro, President, Mareeba District Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association Inc. have prepared the following Joint Submission:

KEY ISSUES on the Review of Regulated Retail Electricity Tariffs and Prices

1. Difficulty of Providing an Informed Submission

- Information within the review has been provided to QCA by Energex and does not include information from Ergon Energy who is the sole electricity provider for the Atherton Tableland (Tableland). This makes it extremely difficult to provide an informed submission.

2. Issues Regarding Energex's Proposed 2012-13 Network Tariff Structure

- The introduction of inclining block tariffs to replace flat rate tariffs is not acceptable. Agricultural producers on the Tableland are already under immense cost of production pressure due to the increasing cost of water and electricity. Most would be unable to sustain the extra financial burden of an inclining block tariff.
- Notified Tariffs T22, T62 & T65: We require more information on the implications of combining the TOU small and medium businesses together for these tariffs.
- Notified Tariff T20: We require more information on the implications of combining the FLAT small and medium businesses together for this tariff.
- It is unclear from Energex's proposed tariff structure what the implications will be for irrigation tariffs. We request more detailed information on how the proposed tariff structures will impact on irrigation tariffs – including implications of inclining block tariffs, combining business tariffs and weekend and off peak times.
- Domestic TOU Structure: Energex's proposal to have Weekday off peak from 10pm-7am is unacceptable. We propose that the Weekday off peak should remain at the current time of 9pm – 7am. Energex's weekend off peak tariff of 10pm – 7am on Saturday and Sunday is also unacceptable. We propose that the weekend off peak times should remain from 9pm on Friday night - 7am on the Monday Morning.
- Business non-demand TOU: We agree with Energex's proposed weekday off peak time of 9pm – 7am. There is no proposal for weekend tariffs. We propose that there should be a weekend off peak tariff from 9pm on Friday night to 7am on the Monday Morning to accommodate for the irrigation tariffs.

3. Costs and Charges

- While it is clear there will be an increase in transmission and distribution charges we require more information on what these increases are likely to be so that we can assess the impact of these increases on our agricultural producers.
- The current Ergon Energy price ratio between off peak and on peak should be retained
- With the already increasing cost of electricity and the burden of the Federal Governments Carbon Tax there can be no justification for electricity price increases higher than CPI