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4 April 2002

Hatch & Sons Pty Ltd
Po Box 27
Claredale Qld 4807

Queensland Competition Authority
GPO Box 2257
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Partners of Hatch & Sons (a family company) would like to submit the following submission.

We own three (3) farms in the BRIA Scheme. Our Son, Mark at Auction 22 on 25 June 1998, purchased the last farm.

When we purchased this block (Lot 73) we were not made aware of the Infrastructure Levy. We were given the understanding that we would be given C.P.A not long after we purchased Block 73. Three (3) years down the track we were given new C.P.A. but we were hit with an Infrastructure Levy on C.P.A of $1.00 a Tonne. We have been paying this ever since 2000.

Also another farm (Lot 280) in the BRIA scheme was purchased by John & Judith Hatch. This had 200 acres assigned and 100 acres not assigned. We were given the understanding we would get an extra 80-100 acres assignment. Lot 280 was bought in 1997 and we sent all the cane from the farm to the mill on existing infrastructure for three (3) years, we leased extra C.P.A for the area not assigned. We also have been hit with infrastructure Levy on New C.P.A even though we had sent cane to the mill for three (3) years previously.

We feel there are two (2) types of Growers – Old C.P.A & New C.P.A (something like Pool 1 & Pool 2)

The new C.P.A Growers have the following disadvantages:

1. Pay $1.00 per Tonne for Cane sent to mill.
2. Miss out on the other benefits paid to old C.P.A, namely $1.07 – (so we miss out on approximately $2.07 all up)
3. New C.P.A Growers would not be able to participate in any bid for the purchasing of mill because we are already behind by $2.07 a Tonne

In August 1998 we received devastating damage on Lot 73 because of a rain event of 20 Inches in 24 hours causing DNR banks to burst, spilling water, silt, rocks and gravel over 200 acres which was ready to plant. We were not able to then get this area planted in 1998. This area could not be planted until August/September 1999. Thus we missed out on one (1) year's crop on the 200 acres. The cost of repairing and re-preparing the remaining area was blown out and cost twice as much as it should have. This placed a huge burden on the other two (2) farms as we had budgeted for only half the end cost.

We applied to QRRA for help for our son because of the above situation but were refused. To access help from QRRA seems to be 'A near impossibility'.

We have not been able to make one repayment on our son's farm and we are now paying interest on interest without taking into account our principal. With cane prices so low we find the flooding damage in 1998 to Lot 73 and the infrastructure levy on Lot 73 and part of Lot 280 we are struggling to keep afloat and our two (2) farms, Lot 280 & 248 cannot sustain Lot 73.

Council rates, water, fertilizer and poisons are all on the rise. Because of low cane prices our equity in our land has been reduced considerably. The price paid for land has been drastically reduced and is decreasing all the time. There are 11 farms out of 14 farms in Auction 22 that are for sale.

With all our rising costs we cannot afford to pay more than cost of recovery for water. From a family farm point of view we need something to be done to keep us in the Sugar industry.

Yours truly,

J C Hatch
J. M. Hatch

John & Judith Hatch
Directors
Hatch & Sons Pty Ltd