Re Individual submission to object to The Draft Determination on Electricity Prices for 2013/14

- It is unjust that the QCA does not have any power to determine the Network costs and must simple pass these costs through. In particular, the use of a weighted Average Return on Capital of 9.8% is entirely unacceptable.
- State owned electricity network owners such as Powerlink, Energex and Ergon provide the Queensland government 100's of millions of dollars in dividends each year, and some of this could be used to offset increases in network charges.
- While a seven year transition period is a step in the right direction, it should be at least 12 years.
- Forcing "large" irrigation customers onto demand tariffs will simple force them to switch to non-grid energy supplies, leaving stranded assets.
- The 3.5% "escalation" charge or 25% of the 17.5%, aimed at encouraging customers to leave the obsolete tariffs prior to the expiration of the obsolete tariffs is blatant price gouging.
- If the government subsidy currently paid to energy retailers was transferred to the energy network provider, then there would be increased incentive for competition at the retail level.
- There is something fundamentally wrong with a system that year after year awards price increases far in excess of CPI.
- According to our farm records, the daily usage for irrigating has risen from $12.4 to $13.6 2012 to 2013. The proposed rise for 2014 will be a daily extra cost of $3.59 per day while irrigating. We were flooded and cannot endure anymore price rises to our cash flow which has already taken a large hit from the recent flood.
- <u>We have irrigated cotton this season and now the cotton is not there to pay for the power.</u> And going forward we need help to keep producing not this.

Regards

Michael and Andrea Stewart
[redacted]