

Submission on draft determination
Cotton Australia
14 April 2023

Regulated electricity prices for regional Queensland 2023–24

Cotton Australia is the peak body representing the interest of Qld cotton growers, who depending on the season produce from \$500 million to \$1.5 Billion (farmgate) for the Qld economy.

Cotton Australia is an active member of the Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF) and it endorses QFF's comprehensive submission to the draft Determination.

Cotton Australia would like to focus on the following:

We welcome the creation of the two Small Business Time of Use (TOU) Solar Soaker tariffs, and the fact that they will be available to all small businesses and not restricted to being used to charge EVs or batteries.

We are disappointed, but not surprised that the brief period of small electricity price reductions is well and truly over, and we have returned to very significant price increases. It should be noted with some tariffs experiencing increases in excess of 25%, that they are the largest increases since the turn of the century.

While it may be technically outside the scope of the QCA Determination, it remains disappointing that the extremely generous Solar Bonus Scheme remains funded out of electricity fees, and not out of Consolidated Revenue. It should be unacceptable for government to fund these scheme by taxing other electricity users, who were not fortunate enough to be in a position to join the scheme.

It also remains disappointing that the QCA has again failed to recommend to government action that would allow all users to be able to access the full suite of tariffs. For example, lack of access to Dynamic Load Tariffs 60A & 60B puts irrigators at St George at a considerable disadvantage when compared with their peers across the State.

Cotton Australia is very concerned that the current cost trajectory is simply making grid supplied electricity and uncompetitive source, and driving the on-going "death-spiral".

Cotton Australia would welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these matters further. Please contact Michael Murray - 0427 707 868 or michaelm@cotton.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Murray,
Cotton Australia
