

**Agriculture competitiveness Whitepaper submission.  
Submitted by Tim Parsons.**

There is currently huge emphasis on making the midlands of Tasmania a “Foodbowl” for Australia with all the irrigation development going on.

Do politicians and policy people realise that most if not all farmers are forced to irrigate at night time to get off-peak electricity rates.

The new tariff and national structure are fixed to say that off peak rates begin at 10.00pm till 7:00am and *in daylight savings times* the off peak rates begin at 11.00pm.

This is the most financially economic time for farmers to go out and start pumps. I'm sure you can imagine it is the least desirable.

If a breakdown or adjustment needs to be made during the “Irrigation Run” Approx 12 hours , then those adjustment often have to be made in the early hours of the morning. If the system shuts down, overnight ( due to power cutout or machinery malfunction, then farmers must continue to irrigate during the day to catch up. Thus paying higher day rates.

In this day and age, there is a much less effect of peak consumption by residences at morning and evening. People are using power 24/7 and industry also uses power 24/7.

On my last electricity bill, for 1 pump, on the November to January quarter I used 31445 KWh on low rate and 7629.14 KWh on high rate. ( tariff 73/74)

Under the new tariff 75.

Off Peak rates are advertised at 15.812 cents per KWh

Shoulder rates are 25.305 cents per KWh

Peak rates are 32.412 cents per KWh

A savings of approx. 10 cents per KWh from Shoulder to Off Peak results in \$3144.50 savings for the quarter for working at night time and on weekends. Based on 6 months use, this amounts to over \$6000 “savings” by irrigating at night time.

I know that Hydro Tasmania and Aurora, claim they are actually offering a “Discount” for night rates to alleviate daytime consumption, however, now with the link across Bass Strait, this consumption bump is much less.

In response to this irrigation development across the state. What is the possibility of lowering daytime irrigation rates or widening off peak cut in times for farmers to pump water during the daytime at a cost effective rate ?.

A small effect of consequence to Hydro Tasmania and Aurora Energy, a reasonable effort by all levels of government and a huge positive outcome for farmers who are charged with producing food produce for the people in an uncompetitive market.

It is a slap in the face to farmers that they are forced to grow the food for the people during the night time and on weekends to make ends meet.

Yours sincerely

Tim Parsons