

QUEENSLAND DAIRYFARMERS ORGANISATION

Millaa Millaa Branch

1st May, 2014

Agricultural Competitiveness Taskforce
PO Box 6500
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

As a group of dairy farmers on the Atherton Tablelands of North Queensland, we are very interested in the competitiveness of agricultural industries, particularly liquid milk.

Since the introduction of \$1/litre milk by supermarkets and deregulation of the dairy industry in 2000, farmers on the tablelands have been getting further and further behind.

The state of the Qld dairy industry is clearly outlined in other submissions that have been made by dairy interest groups such as Premium Milk Ltd (IP229-2) and Port Curtis Milk Suppliers Co-Op Assn Ltd (IP286). We agree with their sentiments and find ourselves in a similar situation regarding higher input costs and inability to pay debts on time.

We also agree and support the Millaa Millaa Chamber of Commerce submission (IP351) which expresses disappointment at not having any Taskforce meeting on the Tablelands. There is a wide range of industries on the Tablelands and the dairy industry is an important one.

Therefore, we urge you to carefully consider the submissions relating to dairy and see that if something is not done to promote better business opportunities and lower costs of production the north will greatly suffer. We have a lot of advantages in the north such as good soil, rainfall and suitable growing conditions, but if we can't realize on these due to overwhelming cost increases and decreasing income, it will be sad for the whole country.

Thank you for the opportunity to register our thoughts and comments,

Sincerely,

Janeene Wallwork

Janeene Wallwork
Secretary.