



Mining & Agricultural Spreading Specialists
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7 August 2017

Submission to Electricity Supply and Prices Enquiry Public Forums

The Lime industry in North Queensland extends from Cooktown to Mackay and west to Mount Isa.

Our industry plays an important part in the food chain supplying products to many industries which include:

Sugar Cane, Banana, Papaw, Mango, Citrus, Exotic Fruit Trees, Tea, Coffee, Potato, Pumpkin, Stock Feed, Avocado, Strawberry, Beef/Dairy, Poultry, Prawn & Fish.

As well as contributing to Mine Site Rehabilitation, Acid Sulphate, Parks and Gardens and Highway Infrastructure.

The Lime industry is very important to the Nation for food production and with the ever increasing cost of electricity, it is a concern that the nation is going to come to a halt in food production. The cost of electricity has risen by 21.8% in the last 13 months. Farmers have a very tight budget to maintain crop production, the increase will have to be passed onto the farmer and their input costs will reduce ability to maintain or improve yield and quality.

Farmers can no longer afford the expenses of growing a premium product which will lead to a shortage of food. With less production from the local growers there will be a flow on effect to not only our Lime industry, the transport industry but also local business's with many jobs cut and business's closing.

Not only does the power increase effect the Lime industry but also all other industries that supply to the Lime Industry, they too are finding it hard to maintain a pricing on manufacturing. If these industries close we will have to buy from outside our local area which effects our local economy.

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If electricity is not cost effective it will lead us to go back to diesel power which is not environmentally friendly.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. R. Wilkins".

Russell Wilkins

Director

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