



The Australian Energy Regulator
Level 35 The Tower
360 Elizabeth Street
Melbourne Central
Melbourne, VIC, 3000

20/01/15

RE: Letter of Support Central Irrigation Trust submission

To whom it may concern,

The Riverland Energy Association Inc.(REA) was formed as a result of a number of collaborative meetings between regional businesses looking at ways to improve business competitiveness and sustainability in the region. Energy costs were highlighted by all businesses as being a major factor impacting profitability and sustainability.

The Riverland Energy Association Inc was formed by a number of Riverland businesses to try and address continually rising energy costs. The objective as outlined by the association is: "For the purpose of working co-operatively to reduce energy costs to improve Riverland business and community sustainability".

The association consists of fourteen Riverland businesses covering a wide range of industries.

Gavin McMahon, Chief Executive Officer of Central Irrigation Trust (CIT) has made a submission to The Australian Energy Regulator regarding SA Power Networks charges. The submission states that the cost of the company's energy bill has increased approximately 90% over the last five years. In comparison the Consumer Price Index over the same period of time is under 15%. This raises the question of how are these price rises justifiable. Mr McMahon states that, "SA Power Networks is a monopoly supplier and that the consumer must accept the given price." CIT has no choice but to pass this cost onto their consumers.

While the detailed submission by CIT is based on their business and operations the impact felt by CIT is also felt by all other businesses in the Region. The same rate of increases experienced by CIT is also experienced by most other businesses in the region.

The REA believe that the disproportionate rise in energy cost compared to CPI is a major concern and we do not want it to further negatively impact our region, thus we support Mr McMahon's submission.

Regards,

Riverland Energy Association Member

Trevor Davidson

General Manager

TWG Australia II Pty Ltd

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Regards,

Riverland Energy Association Members

Berry R. Schi
GENERAL MANAGER
REMARK IRRIGATION TRUST

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Regards,

Riverland Energy Association Members

K Brand

Kevin Brand

Knispel Bros Pty Ltd



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Regards,

Riverland Energy Association Member

Brendan Sidhu
CEO-Director
Jubilee Almonds – Century Orchards

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ALMONDO AUSTRALIA LTD