Tariff Initiative for Irrigators

Ergon Network is inviting primary producers to work with us and your electricity retailer to connect certain farm equipment, like irrigation pumps, to a load control tariff (for example Tariff 33[1]).

Tariff 33 is cheaper than primary tariffs because the supply is interruptible and Ergon Network controls the times when power is available. For equipment like irrigation pumps that don't need power to be available on a constant basis or at a regular time each day, it makes sense to connect them to Tariff 33 to reduce your electricity running costs.

The aim of this initiative is to help farmers better understand how a load control tariff works and its suitability for your operations. We'll help you understand how to move key loads and ancillary farm equipment to Tariff 33. You must also have a primary small business or residential tariff at the same connection point.

[1] Some Retailers may refer to load controlled Tariff 33 by a different name.

Tariff initiative for irrigators

Tariff 33 details

Tariff 33 is a load controlled tariff which has power available for a minimum of 18 hours per day. The times of day that power is available may differ across regional Queensland, change from day to day and vary in duration. Supply may be interrupted on a daily basis or as required to manage load on the network. In some areas, we use a dynamic network load management system. In these areas, we will only switch Tariff 33 off for genuine localised system constraints to maintain security of network supply.

As part of the application process, we will advise you how Tariff 33 'off' times are generally managed in your area but you won't be notified prior to Tariff 33 being switched on or off, however this may be available at some time in the future. Your electricity retailer will advise you of the pricing and eligibility for this tariff.

Timeframes

Using Tariff 33 in conjunction with a primary tariff is an option that is already available and there is no set end-date. You do not need to be part of this initiative to access this tariff now.

Eligibility

To participate you must:

- Be connected to the Ergon electricity network
- Be classified as a 'small' energy user (using less than 100MWh/year)
- Have a primary small business or residential tariff at the same connection point
- Have connected loads that do not rely on having power available 24/7
- Have a compliant meter box and switchboard that is suitable to install a new meter (if required) and a load control receiver.

Costs

If your meter box and switchboard are not already compliant, you'll need to arrange to upgrade them to current standards before the start of the initiative. This will be at your own expense. We will assess the suitability of your meter box and switchboard from the photos you provide us during the application process.

You may also incur costs for:

- Separating circuits to connect specific loads
- Changing business practices and equipment to accommodate power supply interruptions.

Please note: While your usage and current tariffs will be reviewed for suitability on Tariff 33, the decision to participate in the initiative is yours. There's no reimbursement available for any differences in electricity costs you incur. You'll also be responsible for any damage or loss incurred due to electricity supply interruptions.

How to apply

To apply, complete the online expression of interest form at ergon.com.au/agtariffs and attach photos of your meter box and switchboard. Please ensure you review and agree to the terms and conditions.

As part of the application process, we will provide advice on:

- The suitability of Tariff 33 for your farming needs
- Compliance of your meter box and switchboard
- How Tariff 33 timing is generally managed in your area.

If your application is successful and you would like to proceed, you should then contact your electricity retailer to follow their standard tariff change process. We would also like to understand your experiences during this process and may request your feedback through an email survey.

More information

Speak to your agricultural industry body representative or contact us.

Phone: 07 3851 6218 from 9am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday

Email: agtariffs@ergon.com.au

Online: ergon.com.au/agtariffs

QFF

Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group
Representing member irrigators in the Bundaberg Irrigation Area

CANEGROWERS

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ERGON ENERGY NETWORK

3-18-0018