



## Industry project for smarter energy use

### Case Study: Lyn Gale and Ty Maidment, Swathalbyn, South Australia

Almost 80 farms across SA have now participated in a dairy shed energy assessment as part of the on-going Dairy Australia project. Lyn Gale and Ty Maidment had their shed assessed by Chris Harding from “The Energy Guys” in May 2014.

Lyn found the assessment ran smoothly and was relatively easy, “it opened our eyes to a few options, the quicker we react to this information the quicker we will see the benefits,” said Lyn.

“The assessment highlighted to us that there was an issue with our power bills, our hot water was being charged at peak rate, while the “J” tariff was being assigned to another meter. Chris identified that there was a problem, we then got an electrician to confirm which meter the hot water service was on. With the confirmation by the electrician we were able to contact our power provider (by phone) and they then revised our bill, the change was backdated 2.5 years meaning that we were reimbursed around \$6,000. If it were not for the assessment it is likely we would have kept paying the bills and never noticed that we were paying too much,” Lyn said.

“Chris was extremely helpful, his knowledge of dairy meant that he asked the right questions, and was able to offer practical solutions. We spent a lot of time on the phone in order to sort out the metering issue but it was worthwhile.”

“Power prices have really gone up but we don’t really have the skills to identify where to look first to reduce our costs. The assessment provides us with the knowledge to make targeted changes to our system,” Ty said.

“I would thoroughly recommend other farmers take the time to have an assessment. It really isn’t much effort but it gives you piece of mind that you have done what you can to reduce your costs. It was very good.”

Ty said that they have also taken the time to review the low cost options to reduce power consumption. This has included checking with Agridairies if a reduction in hot water temperature from 90 degrees to 80 will still provide for their cleaning needs. “This reduction will save money but will not compromise our cleaning so we have made the change,” said Lyn.

The other change that Lyn plans to implement is a heat recovery system. “It has big advantages for us, we will use heat from the compressors to preheat hot water again resulting in further cost savings.”

#### Acknowledgements

This activity received funding from the Department of Industry as part of the Energy Efficiency Information Grants Program. Dairy Australia gratefully acknowledges the contributions made by many people in producing this factsheet. Dairy Australia also acknowledges the co-funder who made this factsheet possible, the Department of Industry.

Published by Dairy Australia Limited.

Whilst all reasonable efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of the *Industry project for Smarter energy use* case studies, use of the information contained herein is at one’s own risk. To the fullest extent permitted by Australian law, Dairy Australia disclaims all liability for any losses, costs, damages and the like sustained or incurred as a result of the use of or reliance upon the information contained herein, including, without limitation, liability stemming from reliance upon any part which may contain inadvertent errors, whether typographical or otherwise, or omissions of any kind.

© Dairy Australia Limited 2015. All rights reserved.

**Dairy Australia Limited** ABN 60 105 227 987  
Level 5, IBM Centre  
60 City Road, Southbank VIC 3006 Australia  
T + 61 3 9694 3777 F + 61 3 9694 3701  
E [enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au](mailto:enquiries@dairyaustralia.com.au)  
[dairyaustralia.com.au](http://dairyaustralia.com.au)

  
**Dairy  
Australia**  
Your Levy at Work