

Glossary & Resources

Understanding Electricity Tariff Terminology

100,000 kW.h = 100 MW.h

Demand (Power capacity or rate of energy use)

Demand is measured in kiloWatts (kW) and is a measure of the rate at which energy is used. It is calculated over a 30-minute interval. For example, consider a factory starting up machinery, and it uses 100 kW.h of electricity in the first 15 minutes and then 50 kW.h for the rest of the first 30-minute time interval. This factory uses a total of $100 + 50 = 150$ kW.h in this 30-minute time interval. Therefore, the demand for this 30 minute time interval is $150 \times 2 = 300$ kW. If, under normal operating conditions, this factory uses 100 kW.h of energy in all other 30-minute intervals, the demand would be $100 \times 2 = 200$ kW.

Demand Tariff

These tariffs have a charge for the rate you can use electrical energy or “Demand” in kW, that is loosely related to the power capacity of your electrical motors, in addition to the normal energy use charge for kW.h used.

Economy Tariff

T33 is available for a minimum of 18 hours each day. The times when energy is switched off may change from day to day and vary in duration.

Energy

Energy has ability to do an amount of work (eg. lift weight)

Energy Assessment Levels

General Supply or “Flat Rate” Tariff

You pay for the energy (kW.h) used at a single flat rate throughout the day and night, all year round.

kW.h

kiloWatt.hour is the amount of energy used

Large Business Account

An account (NMI) that uses more than 100,000 kW.h/year

• LEVEL 1

is a preliminary assessment or broad overview of the direct energy consumption over the entire farm (or account) - call it a discussion based on generic understanding of the irrigation energy consumption around the district and is a desktop only advisory process with client discussion over the phone, for example.

• LEVEL 2

is termed a standard assessment and is a desktop study of the direct energy consumption of individual farming processes, and would be typically based on client datasets (bills) and real on-farm insights from verbal discussion of the what is likely to be really going on.

• LEVEL 3

is an intensive detailed assessment of a particular item or component, and definitely involves real on-farm at-site measurement of the largest of the energy consuming equipment, using specialised skills and equipment for data collection and analysis to get right down to the specifics in a real world analysis; e.g. diesel engine consumption at pump site etc. The level of accuracy is high and there are significant efforts in obtaining costs for replacement equipment and providing real pay-back analyses.

Load Control & Economy Tariffs

Load Control and Economy tariffs operate in a very similar way and are available for a minimum of 18 hours each day. The times when energy is switched off may change from day to day and vary in duration. It is expected that energy supply will be available for 24 hours for the majority of days each year. Economy Tariff 33 and Load Control Tariff 34 are available to small business accounts, while Load Control Tariffs 60A and 60B are available for large business accounts.

Meter number

Each energy meter will have an identification number; some meter boxes have a single poly-phase meter, while others may have three single phase meters.

MW.h

MegaWatt hour is 1000 kW.h's and is also a measure of energy

NMI

The National Metering Identifier (NMI), is a unique 10 or 11 digit number used to identify every electricity network connection point in Australia

Obsolete tariff

A tariff that will be phased out by a given date. T62, T65 & T66 will not be available after 30 June 2021 for current users and are not available to new users.

Off-Peak energy usage

Energy used (kW.h) during that tariff's Off-Peak period; often charged at a low rate.

Peak energy usage

Energy used (kW.h) during the particular tariff's Peak period (e.g. 10am to 8pm weekdays for Tariff 22A); often charged at a high rate.

Power

Rate at which energy can be used

Service Fee

The daily supply charge to be connected to that tariff.

Small Business Account

An account (NMI) that uses up to 100,000 kW.h/year

Supply charge

A fixed charge (\$/day) to be connected to that tariff and this applies to all tariffs. It is often referred to as the 'Service Fee'.

Time-of-Use (TOU) tariff

These tariffs provide a continuous supply of electricity with different pricing depending on the period within the year that electricity is used; e.g. summer or non-summer months, and the time of day (Peak and Off-Peak times).

Who conducts a tariff review?

Ergon conducts a Level 1 assessment at no cost. For more information call: 13 10 46

Private companies also offer Level 1, 2 and 3 tariff reviews These are on a fee for service basis

It is advised that irrigators understand the level of service they are receiving when obtaining a tariff review.

Where to find more information

Ergon



Farming tariffs:

<https://www.ergon.com.au/retail/business/tariffs-and-prices/farming-tariffs>



Small business tariffs:

<https://www.ergon.com.au/retail/business/tariffs-and-prices/small-business-tariffs>



Large business tariffs:

<https://www.ergon.com.au/retail/business/tariffs-and-prices/large-business-tariffs>



Understanding tariffs:

<https://www.ergon.com.au/network/manage-your-energy/business-resources/peak-demand-at-work/what-are-demand-tariffs>

QFF



<https://www.qff.org.au/projects/energy-savers/>

Commonwealth Government



<https://www.energymadeeasy.gov.au/>