



## **MEDIA RELEASE – 28th June 2017**

### **Regional businesses given a voice on rising power bills**

The Queensland Electricity Users Network (QEUN) is calling on businesses in the Mareeba area to be the first businesses in regional Queensland to participate in a survey to estimate the impact of rising power bills on their local economy.

The QEUN has found that there is a distinct lack of reliable information on the impact of higher power bills on regional businesses and regional jobs.

Coordinator of the QEUN, Jennifer Brownie, said the brief online survey is seeking responses from all types of businesses including agricultural businesses.

“The economy of Mareeba is highly dependent on farmers growing a range of crops such as fruit, vegetables and sugarcane as well as intensive animal industries such as chickens.”

“When farmers are doing well, the businesses in the main street and industrial areas of Mareeba are thriving.”

“The cost of electricity has been identified as a concern for business but there just isn’t any information on how various types of businesses are coping with rising power bills.”

Ms Brownie said small business was the engine room of the Queensland economy.

“This survey gives Mareeba businesses a voice on rising power bills and will enable us to estimate the impact on the economy and jobs of Mareeba.”

“We encourage all businesses in the Mareeba area to voice their opinion on power bills by participating in the survey at [www.qeun.com.au](http://www.qeun.com.au),” Ms Brownie said.

To estimate the impact across regional Queensland, the QEUN plans to conduct business surveys in other regional towns throughout Queensland over the next month.

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