



## Industry project for smarter energy use

### Case Study: Fred & Kimberly Veenstra, Swan Marsh, WestVic

Fred & Kimberly Veenstra milk 240 cows at Swan Marsh in Westvic. The couple had an on-farm energy assessment which looked at all aspects of the dairy from cooling to the motors. The temperature of their recycled plate cooler water was discussed in length and as a result found it wasn't running efficiently. Cooling milk to 4 degrees can account for 30–60 per cent of total dairy energy costs so it was definitely worth further investigation. Fred modified his system to make sure the plate cooler could run optimally.

"I put an extra water tank in for the plate cooler to lower the temperature of the source water which helps the plate cooler operate more effectively and means the vat isn't doing the majority of the work draining a lot of energy at the peak rate," Fred said.

"There was 2–3 degrees difference in cooling which has saved a lot on the power bill. I've compared my bill with my neighbour who

has a similar operation and dairy and we have saved \$200–\$250 on the power bill. So over time I am confident we will see a big difference."

Fred and Kimberley said the tank wasn't a huge investment to make for such a cost saving on their electricity.

"It was just a matter of putting in another tank, which has not only given us enough capacity to provide cooler water each milking as well as provide more capacity for stock water, which has been a real bonus," Fred said.

"The assessment was a very worthwhile exercise for us because it has given us a saving and it's also good to see how we compare with other farmers also."

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