CASE STUDY

Optimising Energy Strategy for an Australian Specialty Cheese Manufacturer

CLIENT: Cheese Manufacturer
SECTOR: Food Manufacturing
PROJECTS: Energy

RESULTS

Energy 23%

THE CLIENT

A medium-to-large Australian specialty cheese manufacturer had experienced strong and consistent business growth, achieving an average annual growth rate of 20% over five years. With increasing demand both locally and internationally, operational costs—especially energy expenditure—became a critical factor in remaining competitive against imported products and maintaining viable export pricing.

The manufacturer operates a complex, seven-day-a-week production facility that relies significantly on energy for pasteurisation, steam generation, refrigeration, and temperature-controlled storage. Their energy supply was secured under a long-term three-year contract with a retailer, but growing supply charges and a changing regulatory landscape raised concerns about future cost pressures.

THE CHALLENGE

The client sought to reduce operational energy costs without compromising service reliability or production efficiency. Specific energy-intensive activities included:

- Daily boiler and equipment start-up for milk pasteurisation
- Continuous steam demand for ricotta production
- Round-the-clock electricity use for vats, cold rooms, and maturing rooms
- Maintaining milk cooling processes and storage with no tolerance for supply disruptions

ERA Group was engaged to perform a detailed energy review and develop a forward-looking consumption strategy.

THE SOLUTION

ERA Group conducted a comprehensive audit of the facility's power consumption, billing structures, and supplier arrangements. The team identified inefficiencies in the billing model and opportunities to restructure the supply of electricity—without altering the energy contract or compromising operations.

Key elements of the solution included:

- Introducing smarter, demand-based billing structures
- Aligning usage patterns with optimal tariff periods
- Adjusting operational sequencing to flatten peak demand loads
- Leveraging ERA's industry knowledge to navigate supply-side improvements

THE RESULTS

Over the course of two years, the manufacturer achieved energy cost savings of more than 30% without compromising service levels or disrupting operations.

These savings directly improved the company's cost competitiveness, supporting both domestic market resilience and export pricing strategy.

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

"ERA Group became our trusted advisor and showed us some ways of making savings and being smarter to reduce waste that continues to assist us in the long term." — Managing Director, Floridia Cheese

We see opportunities where you never thought possible.
So contact us today to discover the true potential of your business.

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