



Tamar Valley Dairy's Assistant Managing Director Jose Matteo with examples of their popular yoghurt varieties.

# Switching to Natural Gas was a “no-brainer”

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Archie Matteo  
Tamar Valley Dairy  
Managing Director

When Tamar Valley Dairy managing director Archie Matteo first considered switching to natural gas, his biggest worry was the cost of conversion.

Mr Matteo said the dairy was one of the first Tasmanian companies to convert to natural gas, having switched over in April 2005.

“Previously we used bottled gas to run our boilers, using hot water and steam to process our yoghurt,” he said.

“The cost of installation and converting the plant was about \$15,000.

“In the first year, however, we made a 50 per cent saving, which was about \$60,000.

“The decision was a financial one from the outset, but we really had no idea of the potential savings.



When you do the maths it really was a no-brainer.

“There was also the inconvenience of having bulk gas storage taking up space in the carpark.”

Mr Matteo said switching to natural gas had a much bigger impact on the business than he had ever expected.

“The savings allowed us to purchase more plant and employ more people and increase our product range,” he said.

Established in 1996, Tamar Valley Dairy is a wholly Tasmanian-owned, family-operated business based in Invermay in Launceston specialising in the production of probiotic yoghurts and cultured milk drinks.

Mr Matteo said Tamar Valley Dairy was the only Tasmanian company exporting yoghurt interstate.

“While some people seem to be concerned about the cost of converting to natural gas, when you look at the savings bottled gas is simply not a viable option any more,” he said.

Already a market leader in Tasmania supplying the major supermarket chains (Woolworths and Coles) and the independent supermarkets, the company’s long-term plan is to become national leader in the probiotic market segment.



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