



Media release  
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## **Price comparison report update 2013**

The Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator (OTTER) today released its *Comparison of 2013 Australian Standing Offer Energy Prices Report*.

This report is the most recent in a series of reports that OTTER produces six monthly to inform electricity and gas consumers.

OTTER's report provides an overview of regulated and standing offer tariffs for gas and electricity around the country taking into account the Tasmanian regulated electricity tariffs from 1 July 2012 and recent electricity price changes in Victoria and South Australia.

In making comparisons between states and territories, the modelling of typical customers' consumption has been based on the most common standing offer tariffs used in each state and territory.

### **Interstate Electricity Price Comparison**

OTTER found the price changes in Victoria and South Australia did not materially change the price comparisons between states and territories. Tasmanian electricity prices are in the mid range for customers with average to high consumption. Customers with low consumption pay a higher price per unit of power consumed, largely because of the higher daily charges in Tasmania.

Concession customers in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory enjoy the lowest average electricity prices. The Tasmanian electricity concession is effective in reducing the impact of higher daily charges, making Tasmanian residential concession prices competitive with those available in other states and territories.

Tasmanian small business customers that consume between 50 and 150 MWh per year, pay a rate that is competitive with prices available nationally. At lower consumption levels, Tasmanian customers pay prices that are in the mid to high range of those available across Australia.

### **Interstate Natural Gas Comparison**

Natural gas prices have not changed since July 2012. OTTER found that Tasmanian residential natural gas customers with low consumption pay prices are amongst the lowest in the country and are competitive with those available in other jurisdictions at average and high consumption levels. However, prices for Tasmanian business customers using natural gas are amongst the highest available nationally.

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