



**Comparison of 2013 Australian
Standing Offer Energy Prices**

July 2013

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report compares natural gas and electricity prices available to small customers¹ across Australian jurisdictions under a regulated tariff or standing offer contract, as at 1 July 2013. The Report also examines the prices paid by customers entitled to a concession and, for Tasmanian customers, the extent to which concessions reduce the impact of price rises.

For Tasmanian residential customers the Report shows that, as of July 2013:

- electricity prices are in the low to mid range of prices available across Australia regardless of the level of consumption;
- low consumption customers eligible for a concession pay prices that are comparable with those available in other jurisdictions;
- low consumption natural gas customers pay prices that are amongst the lowest in the country; and
- electricity customers entitled to receive a concession pay prices in the mid range of those available in Australia.

The Report also shows that from July 2013:

- Tasmanian electricity business customers on regulated tariffs² pay business rates that are competitive with those available in other jurisdictions;
- Tasmanian business customers with consumption above 20 MWh per year and a high load factor (above 30 per cent) pay a lower rate on the low voltage demand tariff compared to the general business tariff; and
- Commercial gas prices in Tasmania appear to be in the upper band of natural gas business rates available in Australia.

¹ Customers who consume up to 150 MWh per annum.

² Business customers that consume less than 50 MWh per annum are on regulated tariffs. Those that consume between 50 and 150 MWh can enter a market contract or remain on a regulated tariff.

1 INTRODUCTION

This Report provides an overview of the pricing environment in both the electricity and gas retail markets for the second half of the 2013 calendar year, updating information presented in the *Comparison of 2013 Australian Standing Offer Energy Prices Report*, April 2013. The Report reflects:

- standing offer retail electricity tariffs in Victoria from 1 February 2013;
- the regulated electricity tariffs approved by the Tasmanian Economic Regulator for Tasmania from 1 July 2013 for small customers;
- regulated electricity tariffs in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, New South Wales and Queensland from 1 July 2013; and
- standing offer retail electricity tariffs in South Australia as at 1 February 2013.

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

The electricity section compares prices in Tasmania and mainland jurisdictions paid by residential customers from 1 July 2013, including a comparison of prices taking into account concessions available in each jurisdiction. The electricity section also compares prices paid by small business customers from 1 July 2013. A separate comparison between Tasmanian Aurora Pay As You Go prices and regulated tariffs is available on the Office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator's (OTTER's) website.³

The natural gas section compares prices prevailing in Tasmania and mainland jurisdictions for both residential and business consumers from 1 July 2013.

³ OTTER, *2013 Aurora Pay As You Go price comparison report (rates from 27 July 2013)*, August 2013.

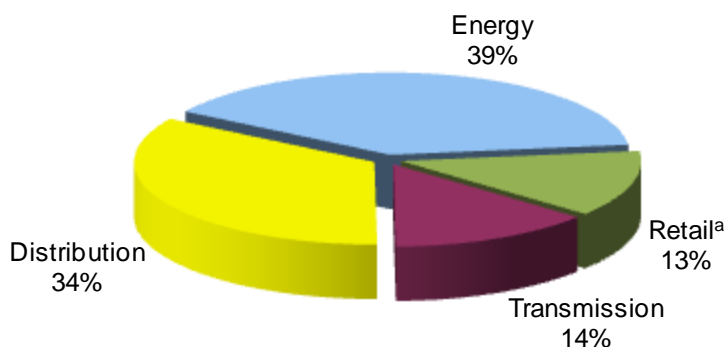
2 ELECTRICITY

Electricity prices increased in most jurisdictions on 1 July 2013. Typically, the industry reviews and adjusts standard energy charges every six to 12 months. A number of factors have contributed to the price increases including the introduction of the Australian Government's Carbon Pricing Mechanism on 1 July 2012 and rising network charges. Victoria revised its electricity prices effective from 1 February 2013. South Australia also reviewed its electricity prices with effect from various dates in January 2013. For the purposes of analysis these prices are taken to have been amended from 1 February 2013.

As part of its "Energy for the Future" reforms announced in May 2012, the Tasmanian Government required the Regulator to make a new retail price determination, the 2013 Determination, for the period from 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013. On 18 June 2013 the Regulator approved Aurora Energy's retail tariffs for the period 1 July 2013 to 31 December 2013 in accordance with the Regulator's 2013 Price Determination.⁴ Tasmanian small customers experienced average price increases of 1.79 per cent on 1 July 2013. In making this Determination, the Regulator was essentially required to inflate the various components of the electricity price adopted in the Regulator's 2012-13 electricity price approval to account for movements in the Consumer Price Index.

The following comparisons use the approved regulated tariffs for Tasmania, New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory and the approved standing offer prices for the major retailers in Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

Figure 2.1: Price components of a typical electricity bill⁵



^a Includes Renewable Energy Target costs of and Australian Energy Market Operator market charges

For the average customer on a retail tariff, the breakdown in costs is approximately 39 per cent for the cost of energy (generation), 14 per cent for the transmission of

⁴ OTTER, *Aurora Energy Pty Ltd Pricing Policies 2013 Determination*, March 2013.

⁵ Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percent.

electricity, 34 per cent for the distribution of electricity and 13 per cent for the electricity retail service. These numbers are approximate and differ slightly for each tariff, but give a reasonable indication of the impact that each part of the industry has on a consumer's electricity bill.

2.1 Residential

2.1.1 Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

Comparison of inter-jurisdictional electricity prices is not straightforward, and requires consideration of the factors that characterise each market. The prices in each jurisdiction reflect:

- local cost structures;
- the nature of the energy market (in particular the take-up of natural gas by customers);
- the regulatory environment; and
- the differing weighting of fixed (daily) charges and variable (consumption-related) charges.

When comparing prices in Tasmania with those of mainland jurisdictions, the following factors must be taken into account:

- mainland jurisdictions, where thermal generation predominates, have a distinct differential between peak and off-peak energy costs reflecting the fact that those systems are capacity constrained. Hence there are relatively cheaper off-peak retail rates compared to those offered by Aurora. The Tasmanian system is energy constrained (that is, constrained by water storage levels). There is therefore less reason for significant differences between peak and off-peak energy prices in Tasmania.
- due to the comparatively low off-peak rates in the mainland jurisdictions, off-peak (with or without any-time boost) is the most economical option in those jurisdictions for electric water heating. There is comparatively less difference between the Aurora any-time hot water rate and the Aurora off-peak rate.
- Tasmanian average residential consumption is higher than that in other jurisdictions due to the relatively lower availability, and therefore take-up of, natural gas and the colder weather which results in a higher space heating load. However, Tasmania has a relatively high number of wood heaters and comparatively little demand for air conditioning, although this is changing.
- tariff structures differ between jurisdictions. Most Tasmanian residential tariffs have a higher fixed (daily) charge and a lower variable (consumption-related) rate. Hence for many Tasmanian residential customers, the average incremental energy rates are lower than the equivalent average incremental energy rates in other jurisdictions.

The use of solar hot water heaters has increased dramatically in other jurisdictions due to government programs that offer incentives for residential customers to install solar and gas-boosted solar hot water systems. In Queensland, the phasing-out of electric hot water systems means that residential customers must choose from gas, solar or heat pump options.

It is therefore difficult to draw conclusions from simple direct comparisons between prices in each jurisdiction. By looking at publicly available tariffs and calculating resulting prices across a range of consumption levels, it is possible to estimate the range of prices (average cents per kWh) that customers could reasonably expect to pay in each jurisdiction.

To demonstrate the varying price per unit paid by low and high consumption customers due to the mix between fixed and variable charges, OTTER uses a methodology that produces price curves for a range of commonly used electricity tariff combinations (outlined in the Appendix), plotting average cost per unit of energy against consumption. The average cost is calculated based on the total quarterly bill, including all fixed and variable charges, divided by consumption. The average cost per kWh therefore represents the average price paid per kWh at any given level of consumption. This method takes into account the consumption split between tariffs (i.e. standard and off-peak) and the average consumption level as well as the different fixed and variable charges in each jurisdiction.

Importantly, the prices selected are the approved residential standing offer or regulated prices for each jurisdiction, noting that in jurisdictions where retail markets are fully contestable, customers may have access to cheaper products than the approved standing offers.⁶ Average residential consumption levels vary between jurisdictions. Consumption has been 'normalised' to enable comparison of households with similar consumption. This approach identifies the annual average residential electricity use for each jurisdiction and normalises the range of consumption to between 20 per cent and 300 per cent of average consumption. This allows comparison of 'low' and 'high' consumption customers across jurisdictions despite the actual consumption of these customers varying considerably (eg a 'low consumption' customer in Tasmania may consume more than a 'low consumption' customer in Western Australia owing to a higher dependence on electricity for necessities such as heating). The variation in average annual residential consumption between jurisdictions is shown in the Appendix.

Figure 2.2 show the range of costs per unit consumption (cents per kWh) for common residential tariffs across Australia (shaded area) available as at 1 July 2013 and indicate where Tasmania's regulated tariffs sit within that range. **Note that the scale begins at 10 cents per kWh in these two figures.**

Figure 2.2 normalises consumption on the basis of percentage of all jurisdictions average residential consumption.

⁶ Approved standing offer prices are the default contract prices for customers, in accordance with a price determination made by the relevant Regulator.

Figure 2.2: Average residential electricity cost per kWh as at 1 July 2013 – normalised consumption

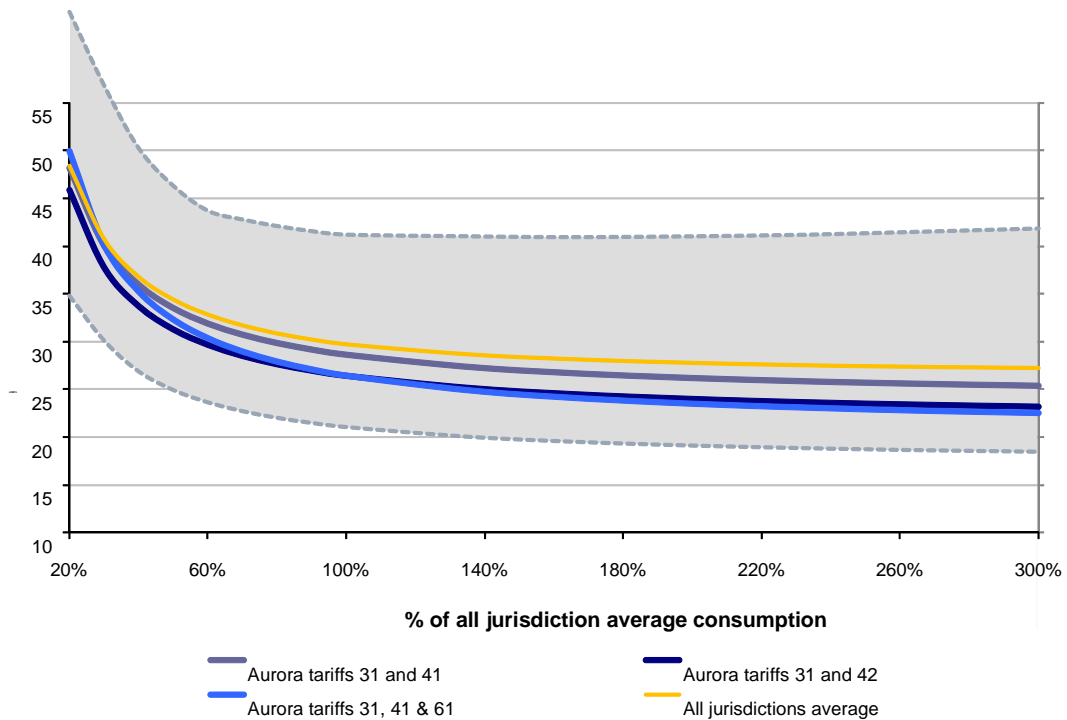
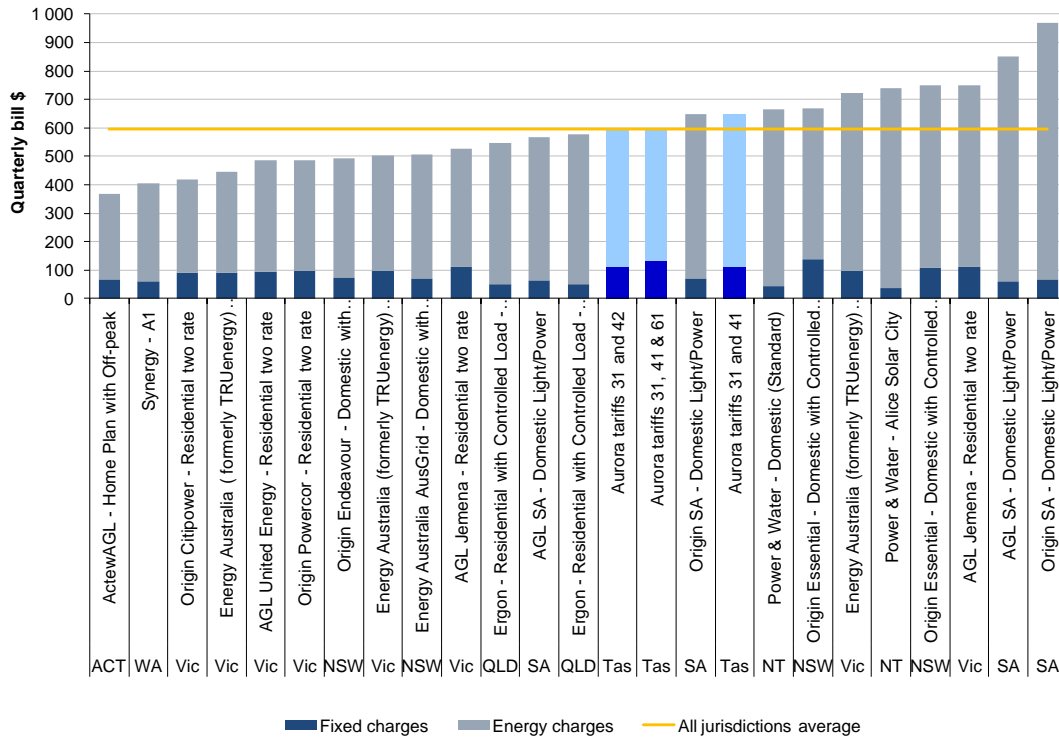


Figure 2.2 illustrates that for Tasmanian residential tariff customers with low consumption, that is, at around 50 per cent of the Tasmanian State average consumption, the average cost of their electricity is between 31.3 cents per kWh and 33.5 cents per kWh, which is in the low to mid range of prices experienced across Australia. High consumption customers, at 200 per cent of the Tasmanian State average consumption, pay an average of between 23.5 cents per kWh and 26.2 cents per kWh, which is also in the low to mid range of prices experienced across Australia.

In summary, the considerably lower increases in Tasmanian electricity prices compared to other jurisdictions in 2012 and 2013 have resulted in Tasmanian residential energy prices which are below the national average at low, medium and high levels of consumption.

Figure 2.3 shows the calculated quarterly bill for selected tariffs from 1 July 2013, for a typical customer consuming 10 000 kWh per annum.

Figure 2.3: Quarterly bill amount from 1 July 2013 – fixed and variable (consumption-related) charges at 10 000 kWh per annum



Households in Tasmania with a typical level of consumption (10 000 kWh per annum), are paying similar quarterly bills to the all jurisdictions average except for Tariff 31 and 41 which is up to \$51 more per quarter than the all jurisdiction average. Customers in the Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia and Victoria enjoy amongst the lowest quarterly electricity bills at this level of consumption. In Tasmania, the fixed charge component of a customer's electricity bill at 10 000 kWh per annum is around 19 per cent of the total charges while in other jurisdictions, the fixed charge component is around 15 per cent.

2.1.1.1 Concessions

There are a range of concession schemes available around Australia that reduce electricity charges for pensioners and other concession card holders. From 1 July 2013, Tasmanian Pensioner Concession Card and Health Care Card holders received a rebate of 125.71 cents per day for the fixed charge component of Tariff 31.⁷ This equates to a concession of \$458.84 per annum, which is one of the most generous concessions available in Australia. Eligibility for concessions is generally broader in Tasmania than in other jurisdictions, with around one in three residential customers receiving the concession. A summary of the concessions available in each jurisdictions is provided in Table 2 of Appendix 1.

⁷ Tasmanian concessions are indexed by the average percentage increase in the retail tariffs for the relevant period.

Figure 2.4 demonstrate the range of major retailers’ standing offer prices available to residential customers across Australia, taking account of any concessions as at 1 July 2013.

Figure 2.4 normalises consumption on the basis of percentage of jurisdiction average residential consumption.

Figure 2.4: Average residential concession cost per kWh from 1 July 2013 – normalised consumption

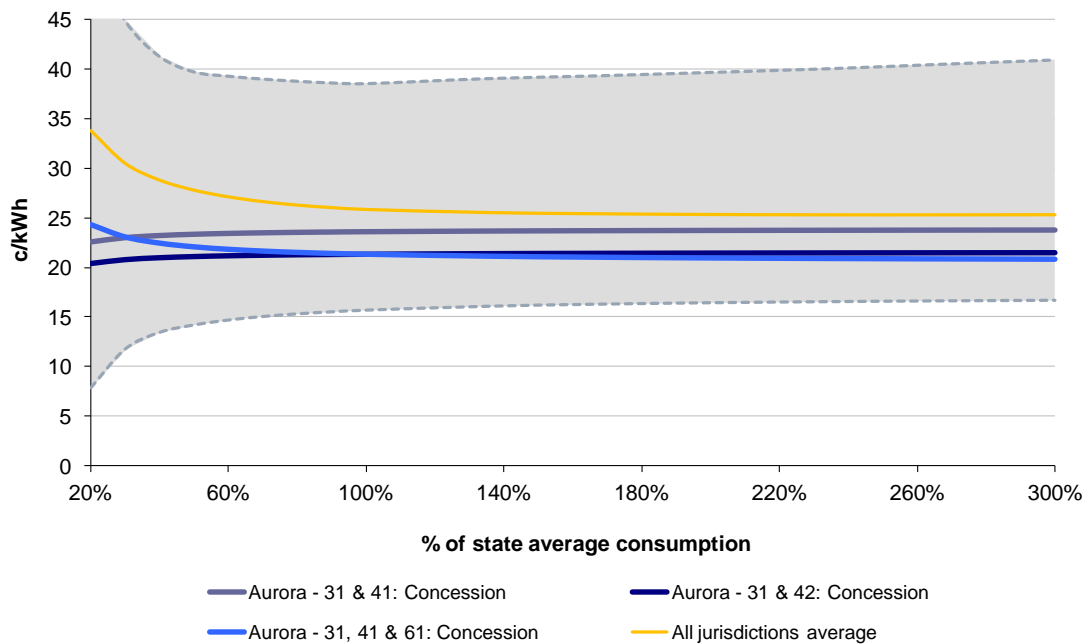


Figure 2.4 illustrates the effect the Tasmanian concession has on reducing the impact of the fixed charge component of the tariffs, thereby flattening the curve at the low end of consumption and reducing prices. As such, Tasmanian concession customers experience electricity costs that are in the mid-range across Australia at consumption levels that are 50 to 200 per cent of all jurisdictions average consumption.

Concession customers in the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory enjoy the lowest average electricity prices. For Tasmanian concession customers with average annual consumption, the concession lowers the average price to between 21.3 and 23.6 cents per kWh.

2.2 Business

2.2.1 Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

It is difficult to compare prices for business customers⁸ because of the different stages of contestability (and hence access to price information) between

⁸ Business customers who consume up to 50 MWh per annum.

jurisdictions. All business customers are now contestable in New South Wales, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory but have standing offer tariffs and/or other arrangements in place. Queensland has adopted full retail contestability with some safety net tariffs remaining in place. In 2009, Victoria removed all price caps on retail electricity prices, although retailers are obliged to provide standing offer tariffs. From February 2013, South Australia deregulated its retail electricity prices although retailers continue to provide standing offer tariffs.

Contestable customers may take supply under individual contracts with retailers rather than under published tariffs. There is no public disclosure of current contract prices. The Energy Supply Association of Australia (ESAA) has ceased to provide estimates of contestable prices due to the difficulty in obtaining contract prices. The following analysis has been undertaken using publicly available tariffs. However as noted, these may not represent the prices actually available under market contracts.

The price curves developed for small business customers follow a similar methodology to that used for residential customers, with the following exceptions:

- consumption was not normalised across jurisdictions, as there is less variability in the 'typical' business consumption between jurisdictions, being more a result of the nature of commercial activity rather than local factors; and
- a consumption range was chosen that represents Tasmanian small business customers⁹, 1 MWh per annum to 50 MWh per annum.

Figure 2.5 show the range of prices per unit of consumption (cents per kWh) for common business tariffs available in Australia (shaded) from 1 July 2013, and indicates where Aurora Energy's general business tariff fits within that range. **Note that the scale begins at 10 cents per kWh in these two figures.**

Figure 2.5 focuses on customers at the low end of consumption to highlight the price curve and the impact of the fixed charge component of the tariffs. At higher consumption levels, the price per unit converges with the marginal energy rate.

⁹ Tasmanian business customers that consume more than 50MWh are contestable and cannot access regulated tariffs.

Figure 2.5 Average business electricity prices per kWh as at 1 July 2013, national price range – consumption up to 40 MWh per annum

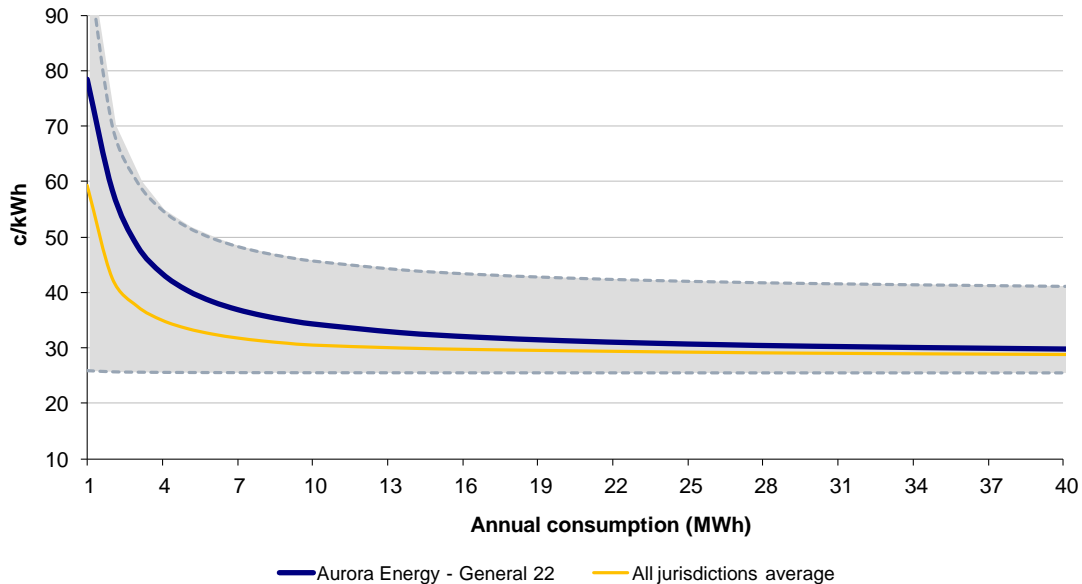


Figure 2.5 illustrates that Tasmanian business customers consuming up to 5 MWh per annum (approximately \$505 per quarter) pay at the rate of around 40 cents per kWh. However, very few customers would have this low level of consumption. Business customers that consume between 20 MWh per annum (approximately \$1 567 per quarter) and 40 MWh per annum (approximately \$2 983 per quarter) pay prices between 30 cents per kWh and 31 cents per kWh, which is on average 5.2 per cent higher than the average price available across all jurisdictions.

2.2.2 Tasmanian business tariff comparisons

This section examines prices for Tasmanian business customers on the range of available regulated business tariffs. On 1 July 2013 Tasmanian business tariffs (including low voltage demand tariffs) increased by around 1.79 per cent.

Tasmanian business customers with electricity consumption between 50 MWh and 150 MWh a year have been contestable since 1 July 2011. That is, those customers whose electricity bills are between around \$10 000 and \$40 000 a year, are able to negotiate a market contract with their chosen electricity retailer. This includes businesses such as bakeries, take-away food outlets, large restaurants, mechanical workshops and medium-sized offices. Unlike other contestable business customers, these customers are still able to access tariffs regulated by the Economic Regulator.

Figure 2.6 shows comparative price curves for business tariffs available in Tasmania by showing the range of prices per consumption unit (cents per kWh) of Aurora's Tariff 22 (business general supply) compared to Tariff 82 (industrial low-voltage demand) at various load factors.

The load factor is the ratio of average demand to peak demand, calculated as:

$$\frac{\text{energy (kWh)}}{\text{peak load (kW) x period (hours)}}$$

A low load factor means that there is occasionally high peak demand. To service that peak, capacity sits idle for long periods of time and thus imposes higher costs. A high load factor indicates that power usage is constant, resulting in lower costs, relative to a low load factor at the same consumption level.

Figure 2.6 shows consumption up to 50 MWh per annum to accentuate the price curve at low consumption levels.

Figure 2.6: Comparison of Tasmanian business tariff offerings, consumption up to 50 MWh per annum, as at 1 July 2013

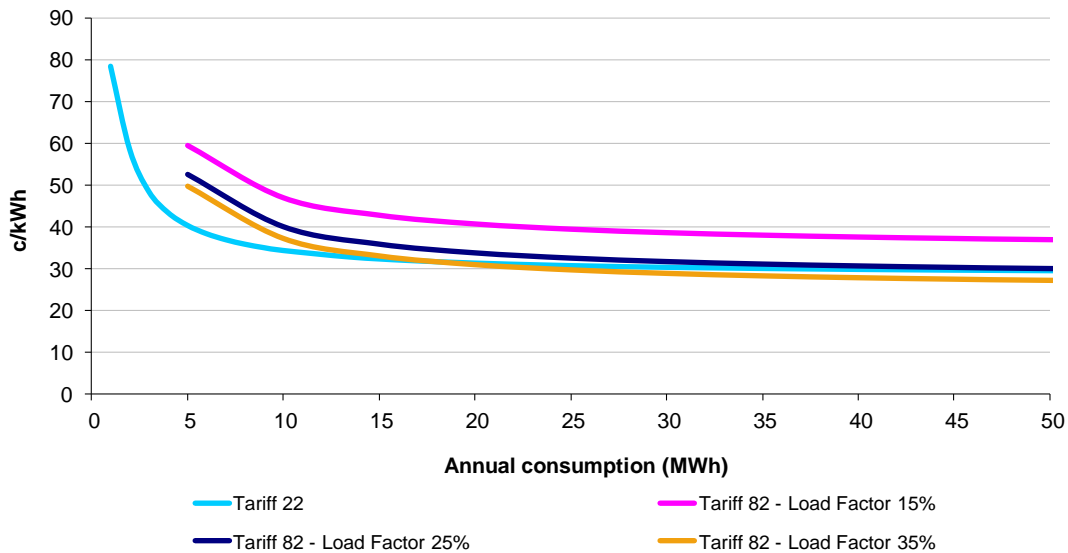


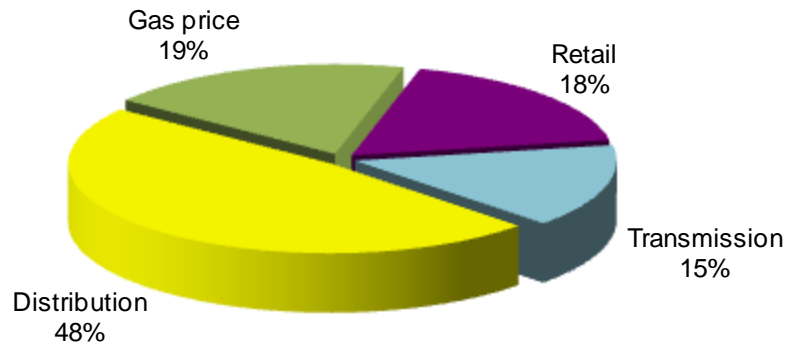
Figure 2.6 illustrates that for annual consumption between 5MWh and 20 MWh, Tasmanian business customers experience a lower cost per consumption unit on Tariff 22 than on Tariff 82 at load factors ranging from 15 to 35 per cent. For consumption over 20 MWh per annum, the price per unit of consumption for Tariff 22 is lower than Tariff 82 at a load factor of 15 per cent.

This indicates that business customers with constant power usage (load factor above 25 per cent) may save on a low voltage demand tariff compared to the general tariff, depending on consumption.

3 NATURAL GAS

For the average customer on a reticulated natural gas retail price, the breakdown of costs is approximately 19 per cent for the cost of the energy (gas price), 15 per cent for transmission of the gas, 48 per cent for gas distribution and 18 per cent for the gas retail service. These numbers are approximate and differ for each tariff, but give a reasonable indication of the impact that each part of the industry has on the customer's final bill.

Figure 3.1: Price components of a typical natural gas bill



The gross retail margin for Tasmanian natural gas retailers of 18 per cent includes the 'cost to serve' component incurred by the retailer. The Tasmanian net retail margin appears to be similar to the net retail margin in Victoria.

The following comparisons use gas tariffs and standing offers available across Australia from 1 July 2013. The tariffs used in the comparisons are outlined in Appendix 2.

3.1 Residential

3.1.1 Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

Meaningful comparisons between inter-jurisdiction prices require consideration of the many factors that characterise each market. The prices in each jurisdiction reflect local cost structures, the balance between natural gas and electricity usage, and the differing weights placed on fixed (daily charges) and variable (consumption-related) charges.

Key factors impacting on comparisons of Tasmanian and mainland prices include:

- most mainland companies offer peak and off-peak consumption rates reflecting the fact that those systems are capacity restrained. The two gas retailers operating in Tasmania currently do not have peak and off-peak pricing policies.

- the Tasmanian gas industry is still in its infancy and currently has a small customer base relative to the gas industry in mainland jurisdictions.
- jurisdiction to jurisdiction consumption levels vary widely. This is a result of many factors including climate and the balance between electricity and natural gas usage.

Currently the Tasmanian market for natural gas is small, though popularity is growing. Since 2005-06, the number of natural gas customers in Tasmania has increased steadily, with 9 123 customers as at 30 June 2012¹⁰. Amongst this small customer base, residential customers' average consumption levels are estimated to be around 40 gigajoules (GJ) per annum. This level of consumption is in the mid-range of most mainland jurisdictions, being greater than Queensland and Western Australia but considerably less than Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which both have higher natural gas usage due to climatic conditions and the balance between electricity and gas usage. As with electricity, there are variations in average residential natural gas consumption levels between jurisdictions. The typical residential consumption levels used in the comparisons are outlined in Appendix 2.

A similar approach to that used for the electricity price curves has been used for gas comparisons between jurisdictions. Under this approach, consumption has been normalised to allow comparisons between similar households.

Figure 3.2 shows the range of prices per unit of consumption (cents per megajoule (MJ))¹¹ for common residential tariffs available in Australia (shaded) from 1 July 2013 with Tasmania's two active gas retailers separately identified. Figure 3.2 normalises consumption on the basis of percentage of jurisdiction average residential consumption, an overall average price per MJ (mathematic average of prices across all jurisdictions) is identified in the figure.

¹⁰ *Energy in Tasmania – Performance Report, 2011-12.*

¹¹ 3.6 megajoules (MJ) is equivalent to 1 kWh.

Figure 3.2: Average residential natural gas prices per MJ from 1 July 2013 – normalised consumption¹²

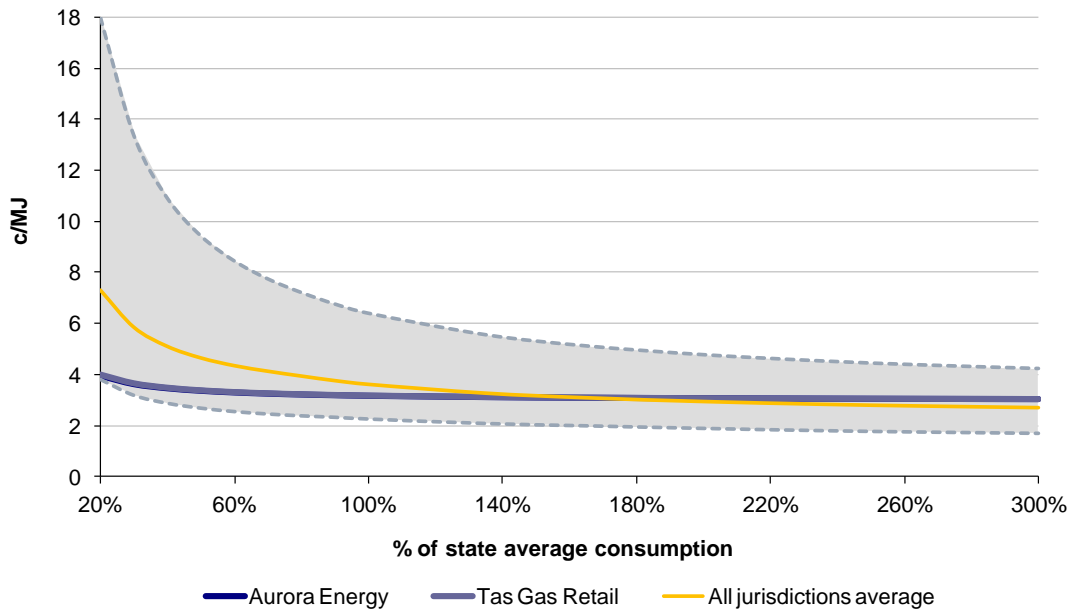


Figure 3.2 shows that low consumption customers in Tasmania, at around 50 per cent of State average consumption, will pay around 3.4 cents per MJ. Tasmanian gas prices are below the national average at consumption levels up to 165 per cent of the State average (was 220 per cent at July 2012). This is largely due to the lower fixed charges in Tasmania which are around 21 cents per day, compared to other jurisdictions where fixed charges are typically around 61 cents per day.

With these assumptions in mind, it is still apparent that Tasmania is paying in the low to mid range of natural gas prices across Australia. This remains unchanged from observations made in the most recent natural gas price comparison report in July 2012.

¹² Aurora Retail's and Tas Gas Retail's prices are practically identical and appear in Figures 3.2 and 3.3 as a single line.

3.2 Business

3.2.1 Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

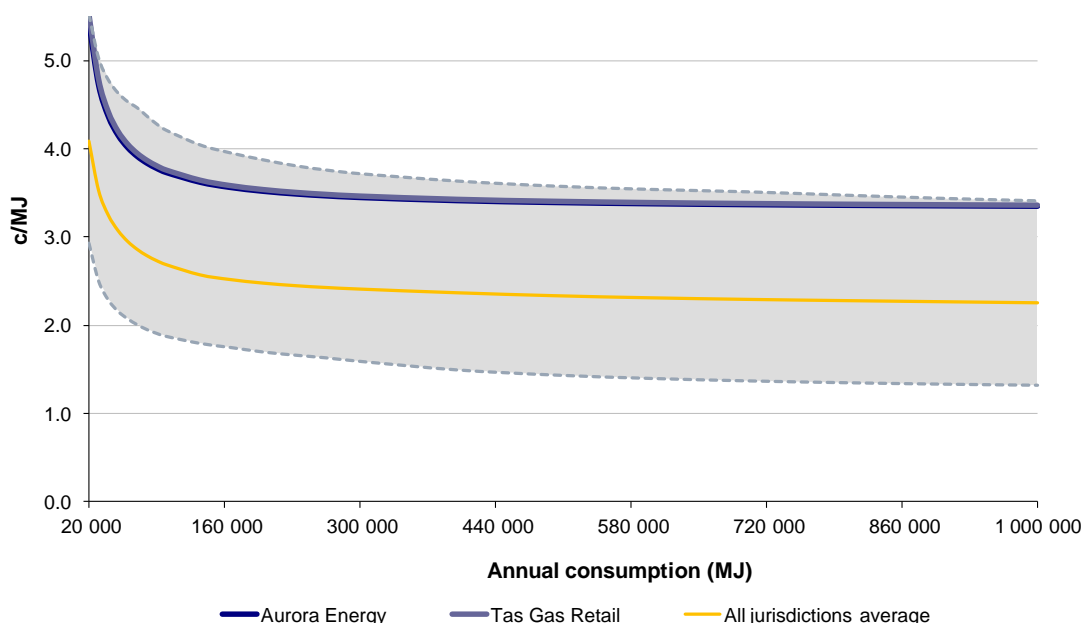
It is difficult to obtain comparative prices for business customers because of the differing competition arrangements (and hence access to price information) between jurisdictions. All gas customers are now contestable in all jurisdictions with the exception of the Northern Territory. Victoria has removed all price caps on retail gas prices, though retailers are obliged to have standing offers in place. Natural gas retailing in Tasmania has been fully contestable from its inception.

The price curves developed for small business customers use a similar methodology to that used for residential customers, with the exception that consumption was not normalised across jurisdictions as there is less variability in the 'typical' business consumption between jurisdictions, being more a result of the nature of the commercial activity than local factors.

Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 show the range of prices per unit of consumption (cents per MJ) for common business tariffs available in Australia (shaded) from 1 July 2013. An overall average price per MJ (mathematic average of prices across all jurisdictions) is identified in each figure.

Figure 3.4 concentrates on the low end of consumption to highlight the price curve and the impact of the fixed charge component of the tariffs. At higher consumption levels, the price per unit converges with the marginal energy rate.

Figure 3.3: Average business natural gas prices per MJ from 1 July 2013¹³



¹³ Aurora Retail and Tas Gas Retail prices are practically identical and appear in the chart as a single line.

Figure 3.4: Average business natural gas prices per MJ from 1 July 2013 - consumption up to 200 000 MJ per annum

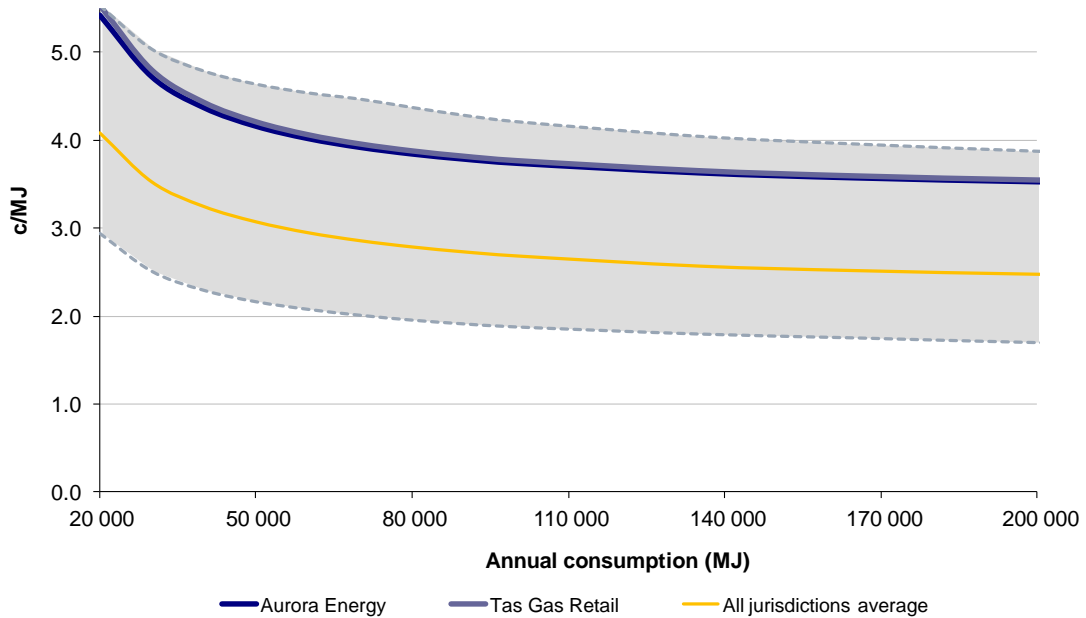


Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4 show that for low consumption Tasmanian natural gas business customers (around 50 000 MJ per annum), prices are about 4.2 cents per MJ. Across the rest of Australia, prices at this level of consumption are around 2.9 cents per MJ. Overall, Tasmanian prices appear to be amongst the highest natural gas business rates available in Australia.

There is still a significant difference between Tasmanian business prices and the average price across Australia. As with the residential natural gas rate, the business rate increased by around ten per cent on 1 July 2013.

APPENDIX 1 ELECTRICITY

Residential price comparison – data

For each jurisdiction, residential tariffs were obtained from a selection of the standing offers of major retailers as listed in Table 1. Where there were a number of alternative tariffs available, the cheapest or most commonly used was chosen as being most representative for customers in that jurisdiction.

Table 1: Available residential tariffs

Jurisdiction	Retailer	Tariffs used	Effective date
Tasmania	Aurora	31 Light and Power 41 Hot Water 42 HydroHeat 61 OffPeak	1 July 2013
Victoria	Origin Energy	Residential two rate	19 January 2013
	AGL	Residential two rate	1 February 2013
	Energy Australia (formerly TRUenergy)	Residential two rate	7 January 2013
New South Wales	Origin Energy	Domestic Controlled load	
	Energy Australia (formerly TRUenergy)	Domestic Controlled load	1 July 2013
ACT	ActewAGL	Home Plan with off peak	1 July 2013
Queensland	Ergon	11 Residential 31 Controlled Load (night rate) 33 Controlled Load (economy)	
South Australia	AGL	110 Domestic Light/Power	
	Origin Energy	110 Domestic Light/Power	1 February 2013
Western Australia	Synergy/Horizon	A1 (standard)	1 July 2013
Northern Territory	NT Power & Water	Domestic (standard)	1 July 2013

Price curves illustrating concession prices include the concessions outlined in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of concessions available by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Concession available
Tasmania	125.71 cents per day, all year round (from 1 July 2013) up to a maximum of \$458.84 per annum.
Victoria	17.5 per cent discount all year round (from 1 July 2012). Concession does not apply to the first \$171.60 of the annual bill.
New South Wales	\$225 Low Income Household Rebate (2013-14). \$125 Family Energy Rebate. Maximum combined rebate is \$250 per annum.
ACT	Energy concession \$292.82 per annum. Utility concession \$82 additional rebate. Maximum combined rebate for 2012-13 is \$374.82
Queensland	Electricity Rebate of \$282.54 per annum. Reticulated Natural Gas Rebate of \$65.58 per annum.
South Australia	Energy concession of up to \$165 per annum.
Western Australia	\$200 per annum Cost of Living Assistance payment.
Northern Territory	\$1.19 per day off the fixed charge, 5.24 c/kWh off consumption charges, all year round

Business price comparison – data

For each jurisdiction, general business tariffs were obtained from a selection of major retailers as listed in Table 3. Where there were a number of alternative tariffs, the cheapest or most commonly used was chosen as being most representative for customers in that jurisdiction.

Table 3: Business tariffs

Jurisdiction	Retailer	Tariffs used	Effective date
Tasmania	Aurora	22 General	1 July 2013
Victoria	Origin	Small business	19 January 2013
	AGL	Small business	1 February 2013
	Energy Australia (formerly TRUenergy)	Business anytime	1 January 2013
NSW	Origin Energy	Business General Supply	1 July 2013
	Energy Australia (formerly TRUenergy)	Business Basics	
ACT	ActewAGL	Business	1 July 2013
Queensland	Ergon	General 20	1 July 2013
		General 21	
South Australia	AGL	General 126	1 February 2013
Western Australia	Synergy/Horizon	Business L1 & L2	1 July 2013
Northern Territory	Power and Water	Commercial	1 July 2013

Use of a standard typical business customer across all jurisdictions in making comparisons reflects that businesses will generally have similar consumption patterns and usage regardless of their location. This, therefore, gives an accurate comparison of differences in price range for each jurisdiction across a range of consumption levels.

APPENDIX 2 NATURAL GAS

Residential price comparison – data

For each jurisdiction, residential tariffs were obtained from a selection of the major retailers as listed in Table 4. Where there were a number of alternative tariffs available, the cheapest or most commonly used was chosen as being most representative for customers in that jurisdiction.

Table 4: Residential tariffs

Jurisdiction	Retailer	Tariffs used	Effective date
Tasmania	Aurora	Residential	1 July 2013
	Tas Gas Retail	Residential	
Victoria	AGL	SP AusNet Central 2 Envestra Central 1 Multinet Main 1 Multinet Main 2	11 January 2013
	Origin Energy	Envestra North Envestra Central 2 Multinet Main 1 Multinet Main 2 SP AusNet Central 2 SP AusNet Central 1	19 January 2013
	EnergyAustralia (formerly TRUenergy)	SP AusNet Central 1 Envestra Central 2 Multinet 1 Multinet 2	1 January 2013
South Australia	AGL	Residential	1 February 2013
	Origin Energy	Metropolitan Adelaide Mount Gambier Port Pirie Riverland Whyalla	
New South Wales	AGL	Residential	1 July 2013
	Origin Energy	Jemena (AGL East) Envestra (Albury) Envestra (Murray Valley)	
	ActewAGL	Capital region Queanbeyan Shoalhaven	
Queensland	AGL Sales (Queensland)	South East Queensland Brisbane and Ipswich	1 July 2013
	Origin Energy	Brisbane and Ipswich Northern	

Jurisdiction	Retailer	Tariffs used	Effective date
ACT	ActewAGL	Residential	1 July 2013
Western Australia	Alinta	Coastal (Metro) Albany Kalgoorlie	21 May 2013
Northern Territory	No information available	No information available	

For tariffs with a combination of peak and off-peak usage, 65 per cent of usage was deemed peak usage whilst the remaining 35 per cent was regarded as off-peak.

Business price comparison – data

For each jurisdiction, general business tariffs were obtained from a selection of major retailers as listed in Table 5. Where there were a number of alternative tariffs the most commonly used was chosen as being most representative for customers in that jurisdiction.

Table 5: Business tariffs

Jurisdiction	Retailer	Tariffs used	Effective date
Tasmania	Aurora	Small business	1 July 2013
	Tas Gas	Commercial rate	
Victoria	AGL	Multinet Main 2 SP AusNet Central 1 SP AusNet Central 2	11 January 2013
	Origin Energy	Envestra North Envestra Central 1 SP AusNet Central 2 SP AusNet West SP AusNet Central 1 Murray Valley	19 January 2013
	EnergyAustralia (formerly TRUenergy)	SP AusNet Central 1 Envestra Central 2 Multinet 2	1 January 2013
South Australia	AGL	Metro Mount Gambier Port Pirie Riverland and Murray Bridge Whyalla	1 February 2013
	Origin	Metropolitan Adelaide Mount Gambier Port Pirie Riverland Whyalla	
New South Wales	ActewAGL	Queanbeyan Capital Shoalhaven	1 July 2013
	AGL	Small business	
	Country Energy (now owned by Origin Energy)	Wagga Wagga and Uranquinty Tumut and Gundagai Henty, Culcairn, Hollbrook and Walla Walla Cooma and Bombala	
	Origin Energy	Albury Murray Valley	

Jurisdiction	Retailer	Tariffs used	Effective date
Queensland	AGL Sales (Queensland)	South East Queensland North Brisbane and Ipswich	1 July 2013
	Origin Energy	Brisbane North and Ipswich South East Queensland	
ACT	ActewAGL		1 July 2013
Western Australia	Alinta	Metro Albany Kalgoorlie	21 May 2013
Northern Territory	No information available	No information available	