



**Comparison of Australian  
Standing Offer Energy Prices**

**March 2015**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report compares electricity and natural gas prices available to residential and business customers across Australian jurisdictions under a regulated tariff or standing offer contract, as at 1 February 2015. The Report also examines the energy prices paid by customers entitled to a concession.

For Tasmanian residential customers the Report shows that:

- electricity prices are in the low to mid range of prices available across Australia at typical household levels of consumption;
- customers eligible for a concession pay prices that are below the average of those available in other jurisdictions; and
- the recent increase in daily fixed charges and the relatively high consumption charges mean that Tasmanian residential gas customers with high consumption pay more than the all jurisdiction average.

The Report also shows that:

- Tasmanian business customers on regulated electricity tariffs<sup>1</sup> 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 electricity load factor (above 30 per cent) pay a lower rate on the low voltage demand tariff compared to the general business tariff; and
- the recent increases in commercial natural gas prices, mean that business customers in Tasmania pay amongst the highest natural gas rates in Australia.

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<sup>1</sup> Business customers that consume up to 150 MWh per annum 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 first half of the 2015 calendar year, updating information presented in the *Comparison of 2014 Australian Standing Offer Energy Prices Report*, September 2014.

The electricity section compares prices paid by residential customers in Tasmania and mainland jurisdictions, including a comparison of prices taking into account concessions available in each jurisdiction as at 1 February 2015. The electricity section also compares prices paid by small business customers.

The natural gas section compares prices prevailing in Tasmania and mainland jurisdictions for both residential and business consumers as at 1 January 2015.

A separate annual 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.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> OTTER, *2014 Aurora Pay As You Go price comparison report (rates from 19 July 2014)*, September 2014.

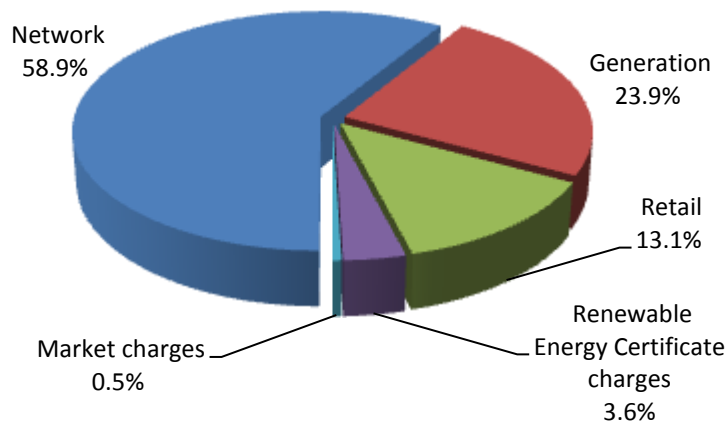
## 2 ELECTRICITY

Electricity prices decreased in all jurisdictions retrospectively from 1 July 2014 due to the repeal of the Carbon Pricing Mechanism on 17 July 2014. The decreases were offset by increases in other electricity cost components. For example, in Tasmania the carbon price decrease was offset by higher network costs, whilst in Queensland, retail electricity prices for a household were expected to increase by five per cent from 1 July 2014 due, in the main, to a 66 per cent increase in the daily service charge.

For some distribution areas, retailers such as Energy Australia and Origin have increased prices effective from 1 January 2015 and 1 February 2015 respectively.

From 1 July 2014, all customers on mainland Tasmania had the option of entering into a market retail contract with Aurora or another retailer. At the time of writing, Aurora Energy was the only retailer offering to sell electricity to residential customers in Tasmania. Additionally, it is understood that Aurora Energy has not offered market contracts to residential customers. As such, all residential customers in Tasmania pay regulated prices for electricity.

**Figure 2.1 Components of a typical electricity bill**



As at 1 July 2014, for the average Tasmanian customer on a regulated tariff, the breakdown in costs (and, therefore, the respective contributions to retail prices) is approximately 24 per cent for the cost of generation, 59 per cent for network costs (transmission and distribution), 13 per cent for the electricity retail service and four per cent for National Energy Market participation charges and Renewable Energy Certificate charges. 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 availability and take-up of natural gas);
- 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:

- In mainland jurisdictions, where generation is primarily from thermal sources (ie coal), there is a distinct differential between peak and off-peak energy costs reflecting the fact that those systems are capacity constrained. Relatively cheaper off-peak retail rates are therefore available compared to those offered by Aurora. Conversely, the Tasmanian system is energy constrained (ie constrained by water storage levels). There is therefore less rationale 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 are comparatively fewer differences between the Aurora's Hot water and Heating tariffs (Tariffs 41 and 42 respectively) and Aurora's off-peak rates (Tariffs 61 and 62).
- Average residential consumption in Tasmania is higher than in other jurisdictions due to the relatively lower availability, and therefore take-up, of natural gas and the relatively colder weather which results in the requirement for a higher space heating load. However, balanced against this Tasmania has a relatively high number of wood heaters and comparatively less demand for air conditioning.
- Tariff structures differ between jurisdictions. Most Tasmanian residential tariffs have a higher fixed (daily) charge and a lower variable (consumption-related) rate. For many Tasmanian residential customers, the average incremental energy rates are therefore lower than the equivalent average incremental energy rates in other jurisdictions.

For these reasons 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

however possible to estimate the range of prices (average cents per kWh) that customers could expect to pay in each jurisdiction.

OTTER uses a methodology that produces price curves for a range of commonly available electricity tariff combinations (details of these tariff combinations are outlined in Appendix 1), plotting average cost per kWh at any given level of consumption. This takes into account the split between tariffs (ie standard and off-peak), the average consumption levels and the different charges in each jurisdiction (fixed and variable). 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.<sup>3</sup>

Figure 2.2 shows the range of costs per unit of consumption (ie cents per kWh) for common residential tariffs across Australia (shaded area) as at 1 February 2015 and shows where Tasmania's regulated tariffs sit within that range.

**Figure 2.2 Residential electricity cost per kWh as at 1 February 2015**

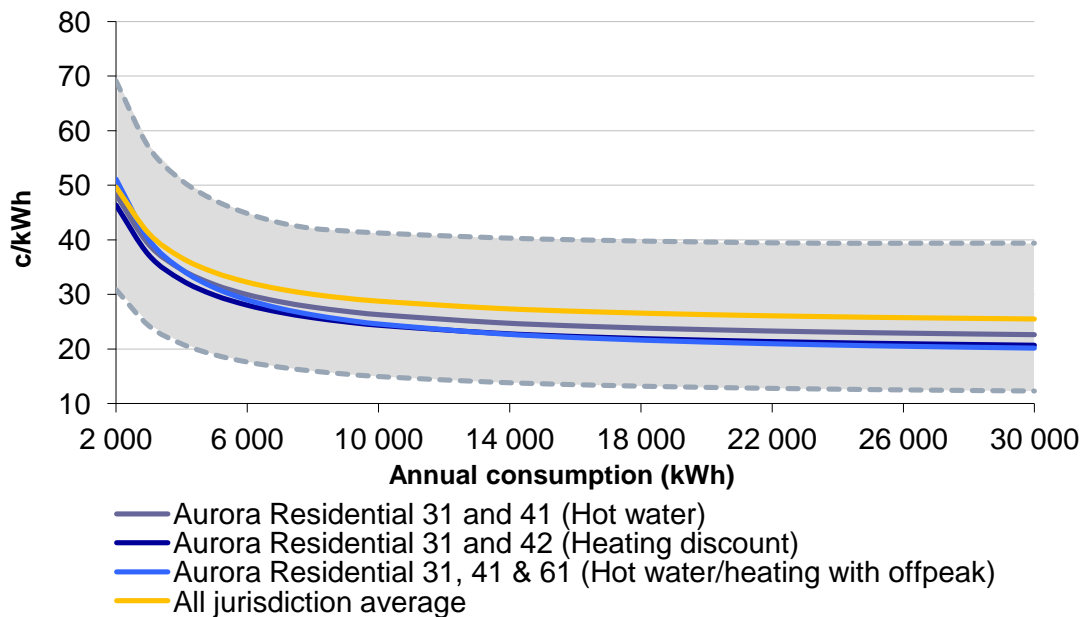


Figure 2.3 shows average residential electricity cost per kWh. As average residential consumption levels vary between jurisdictions, consumption has been 'normalised' to enable comparison of households. This approach identifies the annual average residential electricity use for each jurisdiction and 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

<sup>3</sup> Approved standing offer prices are the default contract prices for customers, in accordance with a price determination made by the relevant Regulator.

necessities such as heating). The variation in average annual residential consumption between jurisdictions is shown in Table 2 of Appendix 1.

**Figure 2.3 Average residential electricity cost per kWh as at 1 February 2015 – normalised consumption**

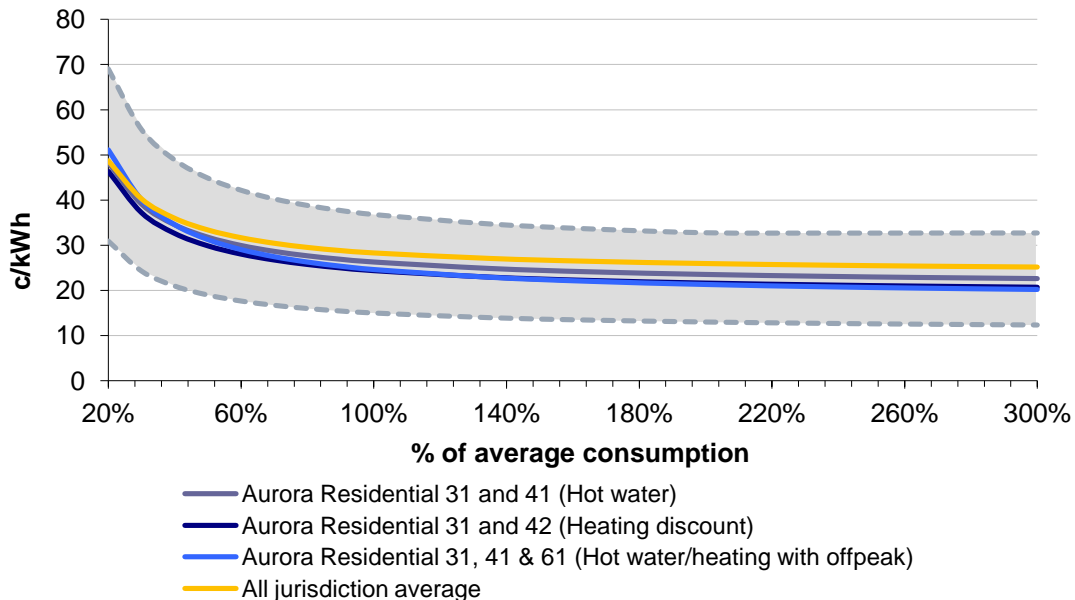
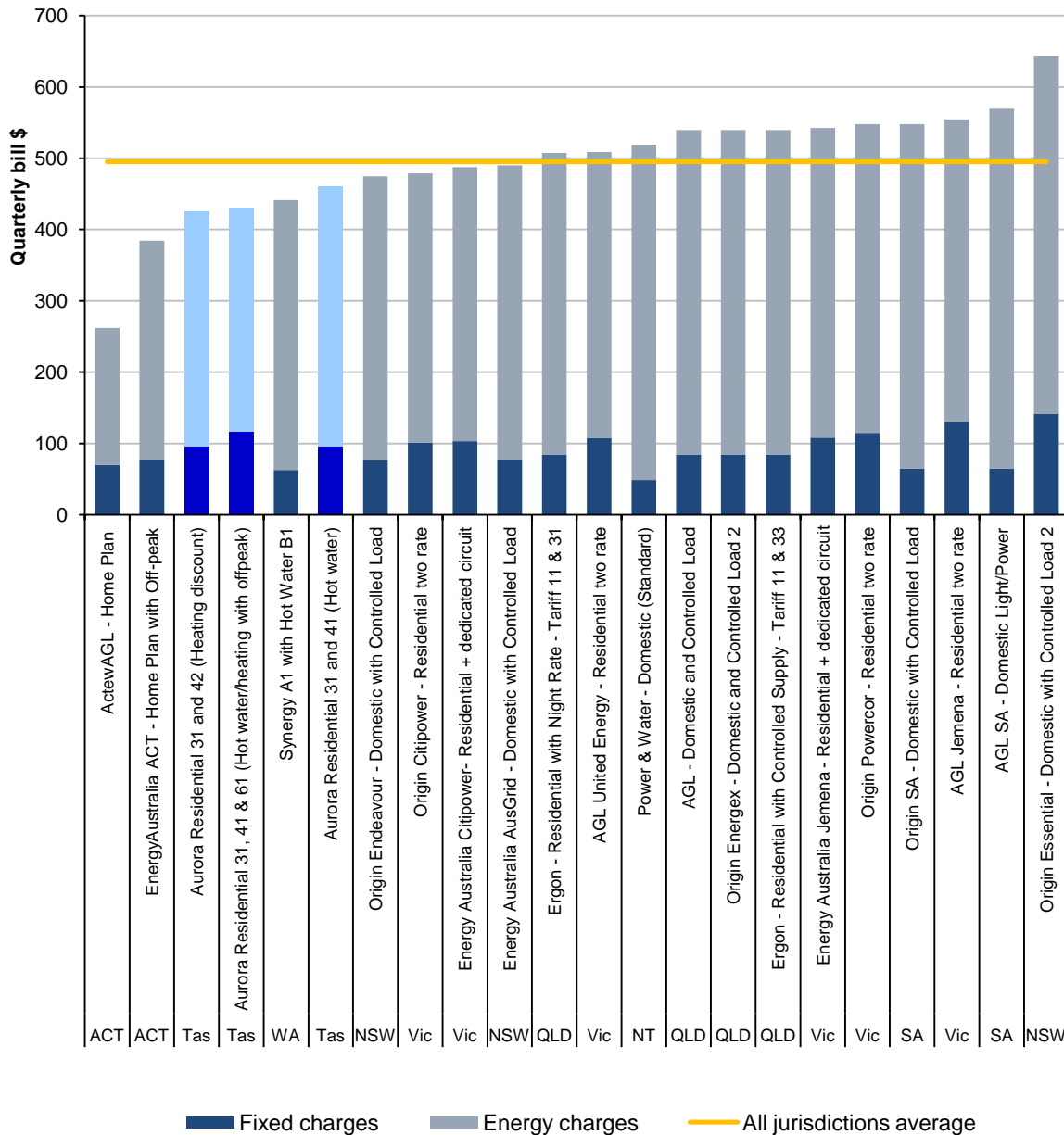


Figure 2.3 shows that apart from some customers with very low consumption levels, Tasmanian customers pay below the all jurisdictions average. For Tasmanian residential tariff customers with low consumption (50 per cent of average consumption) the average cost of their electricity is between 29.8 cents per kWh and 31.8 cents per kWh. High consumption customers (200 per cent of average consumption) pay an average of between 21.3 cents per kWh and 23.5 cents per kWh, which is also in the low range of prices experienced across Australia.

More than half of Tasmanian residential customers have a combination of Tariffs 31 and 42 (residential light and power and heating discount). Typically, customers on this tariff combination use 40 per cent of their usage on general light and power, and the remaining 60 per cent of usage on hot water and wired-in heating. Because these customers use proportionally more power on the discounted heating tariff, they pay electricity costs that are in the low range of prices nationally. In other jurisdictions, customers on a two-rate tariff (that is, residential single rate with controlled load) typically consume proportionally more power on the more expensive general residential tariff (ie the Victorian tariff ratio is 70:30) which increases the overall cost per unit.

Figure 2.4 shows the calculated quarterly bill for selected tariffs as at 1 February 2015, for a typical customer consuming 7 000 kWh per annum using the typical tariff consumption splits for each jurisdiction as outlined in Appendix 1.

**Figure 2.4 Quarterly bill amount from 1 February 2015 – fixed and variable (consumption-related) charges at 7 000 kWh per annum**



Households in Tasmania consuming 7 000 kWh of electricity per annum, are paying below the national average. Customers in the Australian Capital Territory enjoy the lowest quarterly electricity bills at this level of consumption, due to a combination of low fixed charges and a low off-peak rate. In Tasmania, the fixed charge component of a customer's electricity bill at 7 000 kWh per annum is around 24 per cent of the total charges whilst in other jurisdictions, the fixed charge component is around 17 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 2014, 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.<sup>4</sup> 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 jurisdiction is provided in Table 3 of Appendix 1.

Figure 2.5 shows the range of major retailers' standing offer prices available to residential customers across Australia, taking account of any concessions as at 1 February 2015. Consumption has been normalised on the basis of percentage of average consumption, by jurisdiction.

**Figure 2.5 Average residential cost per kWh as at 1 February 2015 – normalised consumption – concession customers**

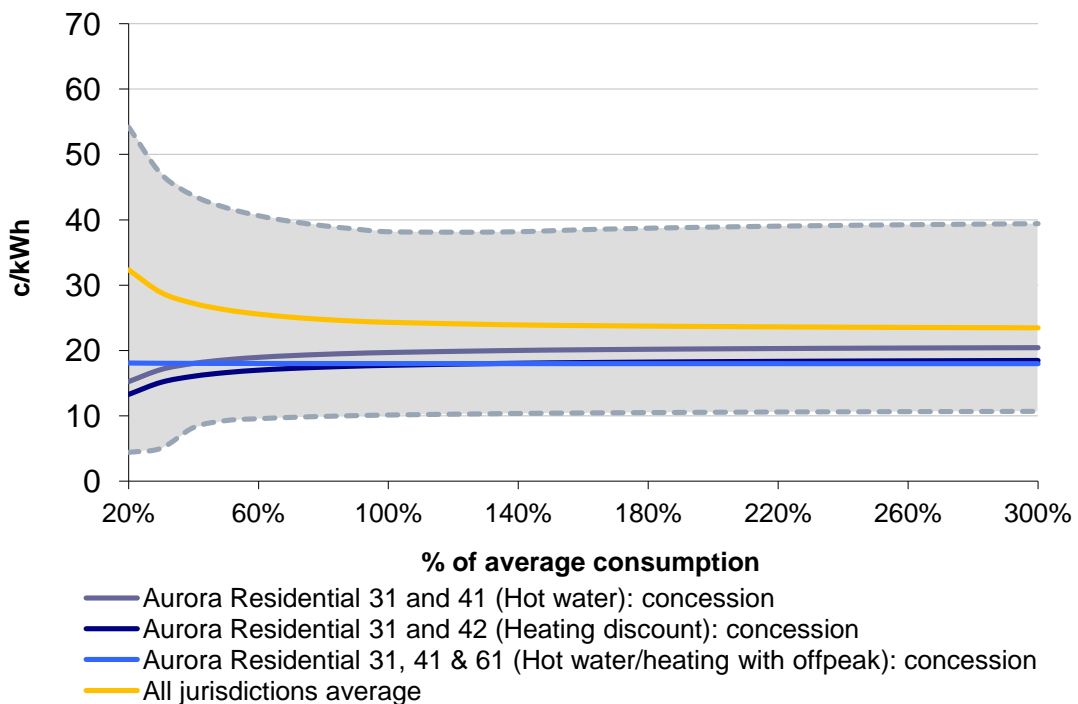


Figure 2.5 shows that the concessions available in Tasmania reduce the impact of the fixed charge component of the tariffs, thereby flattening the curve at the low end of consumption and reducing prices. As such, Tasmanian concession customers experience electricity costs that are in the low-range across Australia at

<sup>4</sup> Tasmanian concessions are indexed to retail tariffs for the relevant period. When prices decreased on 1 January 2014 and again on 1 July 2014, the concession remained at July 2013 levels rather than decreasing in line with the reduction in regulated electricity prices.

consumption levels that are between 50 per cent and 200 per cent of average consumption in each jurisdiction.

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 from between 25.5 and 26.3 cents per kWh to between 17.9 and 19.8 cents per kWh.

## 2.2 Business

### 2.2.1 Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

It is difficult to compare prices for business customers<sup>5</sup> because of the different stages of contestability (and therefore availability of pricing information) in the various jurisdictions. All business customers are now contestable in Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory but have standing offer tariffs and/or other regulated fallback arrangements in place. Queensland has adopted full retail contestability with some safety net tariffs remaining in place. In Victoria and South Australia retailers provide standing offer tariffs to customers who are not on market contracts.

Contestable customers may take supply under individual contracts with retailers rather than under published tariffs. Current contract prices are not publicly disclosed. The Energy Supply Association of Australia (ESAA) has ceased providing 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 of 1 MWh per annum to 50 MWh per annum was chosen to represent Tasmanian small business customers.

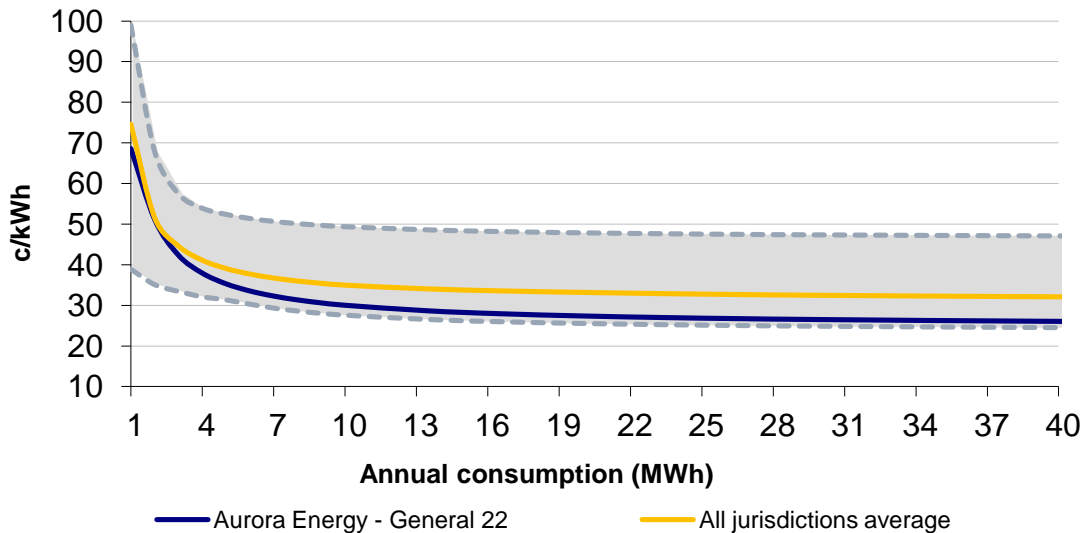
Figure 2.6 shows the range of prices per unit of consumption (cents per kWh) for common business tariffs available in Australia (shaded) as at 1 February 2015. Tasmanian business customers consuming up to 5 MWh per annum (approximately \$441 per quarter) pay around 35.3 cents per kWh, which is comparable with small business prices around Australia. Around 50 per cent of small business customers on Tariff 22 have consumption that is around or below this level, which is described as 'medium' to 'low' in OTTER's *Information Paper Typical Electricity Customers*, May 2014.

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<sup>5</sup> Business customers who consume up to 50 MWh per annum.

Figure 2.6 also shows the impact of the fixed charge component on customers at the low end of consumption. At higher consumption levels, the price per unit converges with the marginal energy rate.

**Figure 2.6 Average business electricity prices per kWh as at 1 February 2015 - national price range – consumption up to 40 MWh per annum**



Tasmanian business customers consuming between 20 MWh of electricity per annum (approximately \$1 369 per quarter) and 40 MWh of electricity per annum (approximately \$2 607 per quarter) pay prices between 26.07 cents per kWh and 27.39 cents per kWh, which is on average 16 per cent lower than the average price available across all jurisdictions.

As discussed in the residential price comparison above, the recent price decreases in Tasmania mean that small business prices remain below the national average.

However as also noted above, prices available under market contracts can be significantly lower than regulated or standing offer prices.

## 2.2.2 Tasmanian business tariff comparisons

This section examines prices for Tasmanian business customers on the range of regulated business tariffs. On 1 July 2014 Tasmanian business tariffs (including low voltage demand tariffs) decreased by 7.8 per cent.

All Tasmanian business customers are able to negotiate a market contract with their chosen electricity retailer. However, Tasmanian businesses consuming less than 150 MWh are still able to access regulated tariffs approved by the Economic Regulator.

Figure 2.7 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 for consumption up to 50 MWh per annum.

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 thereby imposing 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 2.7 Comparison of Tasmanian business tariff offerings, consumption up to 50 MWh per annum, as at 1 July 2014**

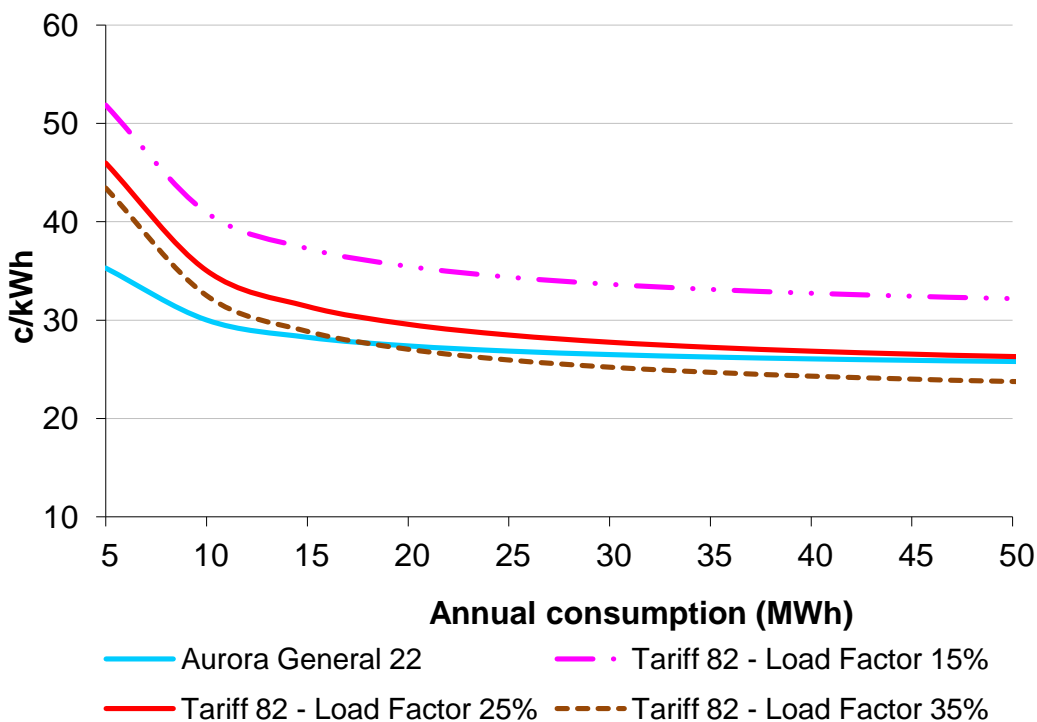


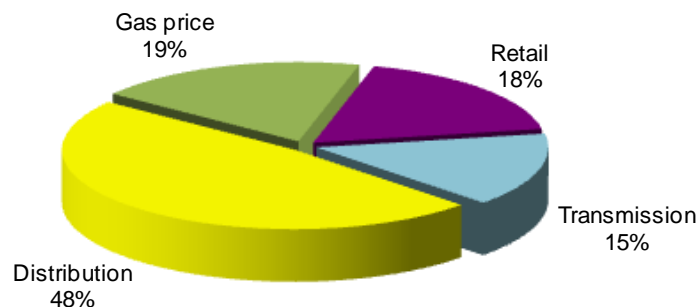
Figure 2.7 also shows that for annual consumption up to 15 MWh, Tasmanian business customers experience a lower cost per kWh on Tariff 22 than on Tariff 82 for all three load factors. For consumption over 20 MWh per annum, the price per kWh for Tariff 82 with a load factor of 35 per cent is lower than Tariff 22.



## 3 NATURAL GAS

For the average customer receiving reticulated natural gas, 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 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 as at 1 February 2015. 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 developing and currently has a small customer base relative to the gas industry in mainland jurisdictions.

- Jurisdictional consumption levels vary widely. This is a result of many factors including the impact of climate and the balance between electricity and natural gas availability.

Both Tasmanian retailers increased their gas prices from 1 January 2015. For Tas Gas residential customers, the daily fixed charge increased from 21.76 cents per day to 46.2 cents per day (an increase of 112 per cent), whilst the retail price of gas increased from 3.038 per MJ to 3.128 cents per MJ. For Aurora residential customers, the daily fixed charge increased from 21.5 cents per day to 46.2 cents per day (an increase of 115 per cent) with the retail price of gas increasing from 3.106 cents per MJ to 3.12 cents per MJ. Despite the considerable increase in daily fixed charges, the daily fixed charges are still low compared to most offerings by mainland retailers.

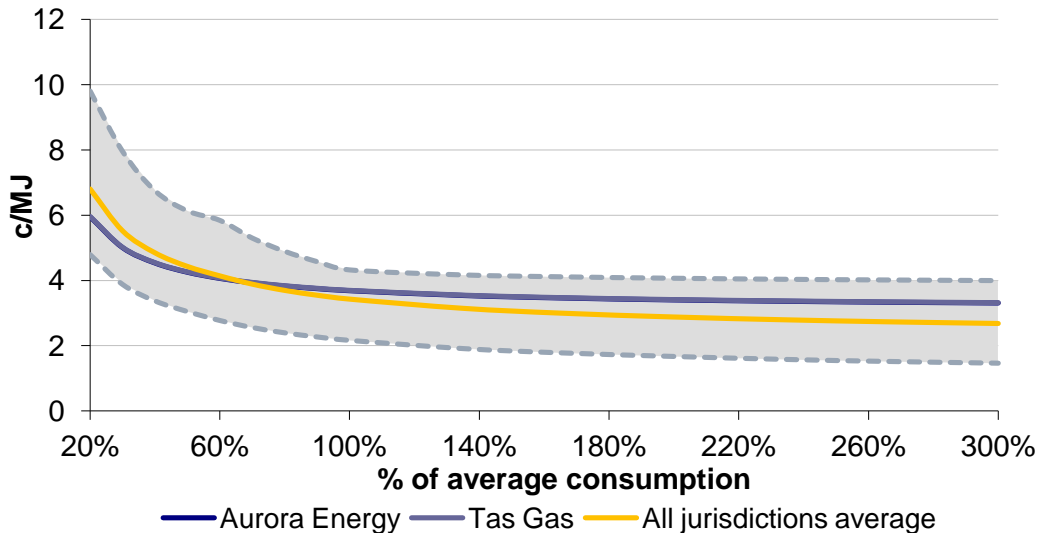
The current Tasmanian market for natural gas is small with 10 979 customers as at 1 July 2014. The average level of consumption for Tasmanian residential customers is in the mid-range of most mainland jurisdictions, being greater than Queensland and Western Australia but considerably less than Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), which both have higher natural gas usage due to climatic conditions and the more even balance between electricity and gas usage. As with electricity, there are variations in average residential natural gas consumption levels between jurisdictions.

A similar approach to that used to develop 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 normalised consumption of 30 000 MJ in cents per megajoule (MJ)<sup>6</sup> for standard residential tariffs available in Australia (shaded) as at 1 February 2015.

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<sup>6</sup> 3.6 megajoules (MJ) is equivalent to 1 kWh.

**Figure 3.2 Average residential natural gas prices per MJ from 1 February 2015 – normalised consumption**



As shown in Figure 3.2, Tasmanian customers who consume more than the normalised amount of gas (30 000 MJ per annum) pay above the all jurisdiction average. Some lower consumption customers may pay below the all jurisdiction average but the increase in fixed daily charges and relatively high consumption charges mean that most customers pay more than customers in other jurisdictions.

When prices are compared using 30 000 MJ per annum as standard average consumption across States and Territories, Tasmanian residential natural gas prices are competitive with those available across Australia. At higher consumption levels (ie above 60 000 MJ per annum), Tasmanian prices are around 0.4 cents per MJ higher than the national average.

At an average level of consumption (around 40 000 MJ per annum in Tasmania), Tasmanian residential customers pay around 3.4 cents per MJ, while Victorian customers (around 60 000 MJ per annum) pay around 2.0 cents per MJ. At jurisdictional average levels of consumption, customers in New South Wales pay around 3.6 cents per MJ, customers in Queensland pay around 8.0 cents per MJ and customers in South Australia pay around 4.8 cents per MJ.

Based on these outcomes, residential customers in Tasmania are now paying in the mid to high range of natural gas prices across Australia. At low to medium levels of consumption, natural gas prices appear to be the lowest in Victoria and New South Wales where there is active retail competition.

## 3.2 Business

### 3.2.1 Inter-jurisdictional comparisons

Natural gas customers are contestable in all jurisdictions apart from the Northern Territory. Victoria no longer has price caps on retail gas prices, although retailers are obliged to have standing offers in place. Natural gas retailing in Tasmania has been fully contestable from its commencement.

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 shows the range of prices per unit of consumption (cents per MJ) for common business tariffs available in Australia (shaded) from 1 February 2015.

**Figure 3.3 Average business natural gas prices per MJ from 1 February 2015**

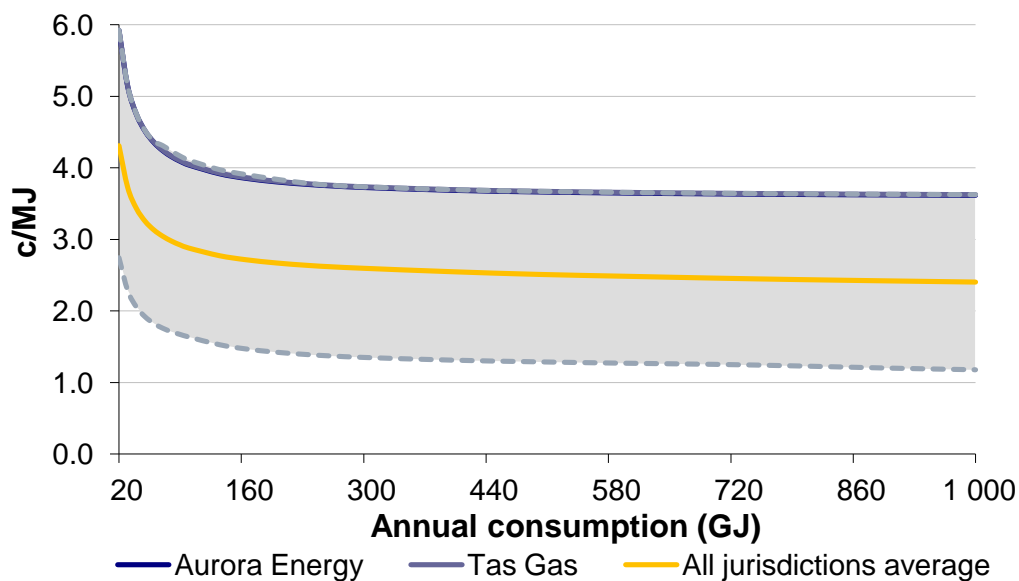


Figure 3.3 shows that Tasmanian natural gas business customers at any level of consumption pay well above the all jurisdiction average. Additionally, Tasmanian small business customers effectively pay the highest price for natural gas in the country.

At any level of consumption, the Tasmanian natural gas price remains at least one cent per MJ higher than those available in other jurisdictions. This means that a Tasmanian business consuming 200 GJ per annum (ie a small business) may be paying up to \$483 more per quarter for natural gas than a similar mainland business.

Overall, there is still a significant difference between Tasmanian business natural gas prices and the average natural gas price across Australia. Tasmanian prices appear to be amongst the highest natural gas business rates available in Australia, with high use commercial customers paying around 50 per cent more per year than mainland businesses.

# APPENDIX 1 ELECTRICITY

## Residential price comparison – data

**Table 1 Available residential tariffs**

| Jurisdiction       | Retailer         | Tariffs used                                                     | Distribution zone                             | Effective date    |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tasmania           | Aurora           | 31 Light and Power<br>41 Hot Water<br>42 HydroHeat<br>61 OffPeak |                                               | 1 July 2014       |
| Victoria           | Origin Energy    | Residential Peak Anytime with Dedicated Circuit                  | Powercor, Citipower                           | 1 February 2015   |
|                    | Energy Australia | Basic Home with Controlled Load 2                                | Jemena, Citipower                             | 1 January 2015    |
|                    | AGL              | Residential two rate                                             | Jemena, Citipower, United Energy              | 1 July 2014       |
| New South Wales    | Origin Energy    | Domestic with Controlled Load 2                                  | Essential Energy, Endeavor                    | 1 February 2015   |
|                    | Energy Australia | Basic Home with Controlled Load 2                                | Ausgrid                                       | 1 February 2015   |
| ACT                | ActewAGL         | 1 Home                                                           |                                               | 1 July 2014       |
|                    | Energy Australia | Basic Home with Controlled Load 2                                |                                               | 1 January 2015    |
| Queensland         | Ergon            | 11 Residential with 31 Controlled Load                           |                                               | 1 July 2014       |
|                    |                  | 11 Residential with 33 Controlled Load                           |                                               | 1 July 2014       |
|                    | Origin Energy    | Domestic and Controlled Load 2                                   | Energex                                       | 15 September 2014 |
|                    | AGL              | 11 Domestic with 33 Controlled Supply                            | (former APG Customers)                        | 1 July 2014       |
|                    | South Australia  | AGL                                                              | 110 Domestic Light/Power with Controlled Load |                   |
| Origin Energy      |                  | 110 Domestic Light/Power with Controlled Load                    |                                               | 1 February 2015   |
| Western Australia  | Synergy          | A1 (standard)                                                    |                                               | 1 July 2014       |
| Northern Territory | NT Power & Water | Domestic (standard)                                              |                                               | 1 July 2014       |

**Table 2 Typical consumption levels and tariff consumption split**

| <b>State/Territory</b> | <b>Average consumption<sup>7</sup><br/>kWh pa</b> | <b>Tariff consumption split</b>                                                      | <b>Source<br/>(consumption split)</b>                                                                             |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tasmania               | 8 151                                             | Tariff 31 & 41 – 60:40<br>Tariff 31 & 42 – 40:60<br>Tariff 31, 41 & 61 –<br>40:30:30 | Office of the Tasmanian<br>Economic Regulator –<br>Typical Electricity<br>Customers Information<br>Paper May 2014 |
| Victoria               | 5 055                                             | Standard & Off-Peak –<br>70:30                                                       | St Vincent de Paul<br>Society, Victorian Energy<br>Prices, January 2014<br>(Tariff Tracking Project)              |
| New South Wales        | 6 226                                             | Standard & Controlled<br>Load/Off-Peak – 82:18                                       | IPART Fact Sheet –<br>Electricity prices to<br>increase for residential<br>and small businesses                   |
| ACT                    | 6 226                                             | Standard & Off-Peak –<br>60:40                                                       | ICRC and ACTEWAGL<br>Pricing Strategy<br>Statement                                                                |
| Queensland             | 6 219                                             | Tariff 11 & 31 – 75:25                                                               | Integral Energy Price<br>Fact Sheet – Typical<br>Customers                                                        |
| South Australia        | 5 388                                             | Standard – 75:25<br>(Summer:Winter)<br><br>Standard & Off-Peak –<br>65:35            | ESCOSA                                                                                                            |
| Western Australia      | 5 442                                             | Standard – 100<br><br>Standard & Off-Peak –<br>75:25                                 | Western Australian Office<br>of Energy - Review of<br>Electricity Tariff<br>Arrangements, January<br>2009         |
| Northern Territory     | 9 064                                             | Standard – 100<br>(no Off-Peak)                                                      | N/A                                                                                                               |

<sup>7</sup> Electricity Gas Australia 2014, Energy Supply Association Australia

**Table 3 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    | \$235 Low Income Household Rebate (2013-14).                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ACT                | Energy concession \$338.21 per annum.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Queensland         | Electricity Rebate of \$320.97 per annum.<br>Reticulated Natural Gas Rebate of \$67.61 per annum.                                                                                                                    |
| South Australia    | Energy concession of up to \$215 per annum.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Western Australia  | \$217 per annum Cost of Living Assistance payment. There are additional concessions available for air conditioning in areas of 'high heat discomfort' and a dependent child rebate, based on the number of children. |
| Northern Territory | \$1.268 per day off the fixed charge, 9.1 c/kWh off consumption charges, all year round                                                                                                                              |

**Business price comparison – data****Table 4 Business tariffs**

| Jurisdiction          | Retailer            | Tariffs used                        | Distribution zone                | Effective date    |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Tasmania              | Aurora              | Tariff 22<br>Tariff 82<br>Tariff 85 |                                  | 1 July 2014       |
| Victoria              | Origin              | Business Peak<br>Anytime            | Citipower,<br>Powercor           | 1 July 2014       |
|                       | AGL                 | Small business<br>(E)               | Jemina,<br>United<br>Energy      | 1 Jan 2015        |
|                       | Energy<br>Australia | Basic Business                      | SP Ausnet                        | 1 Jan 2015        |
| NSW                   | Origin<br>Energy    | Business Peak<br>Anytime            | Endeavor,<br>Essential<br>Energy | 1 Feb 2015        |
|                       | Energy<br>Australia | Basic - Business                    | Ausgrid                          | 1 Jan 2015        |
| ACT                   | ActewAGL            | Business                            |                                  | 1 July 2014       |
| Queensland            | Ergon               | Tariff 20                           |                                  | 1 July 2014       |
|                       | Origin              | Tariff 20                           |                                  | 15 September 2014 |
| South<br>Australia    | AGL                 | General 126<br>(Summer)             |                                  | 1 July 2014       |
| Western<br>Australia  | Synergy/<br>Horizon | Business L1 &<br>L2                 |                                  | 1 July 2014       |
| Northern<br>Territory | Power and<br>Water  | Commercial                          |                                  | 1 Jan 2015        |

## APPENDIX 2 NATURAL GAS

### Residential price comparison – data

Table 5 Residential tariffs

| Jurisdiction       | Retailer                 | Tariffs used                 | Distribution zone                                                                                                               | Effective date                             |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Tasmania           | Aurora                   | Residential                  |                                                                                                                                 | 1 January 2015                             |
|                    | Tas Gas Retail           | Residential                  |                                                                                                                                 | 1 January 2015                             |
| Victoria           | AGL                      |                              | AusNet Central 2<br>Envestra Central 1<br>Multinet Main 1<br>Multinet Main 2                                                    | 1 December 2014                            |
|                    |                          | Origin Energy                | Aus Gas Networks North<br>Aus Gas Networks Central 2<br>Multinet Main 1<br>Multinet Main 2<br>AusNet Central 1 AusNet Central 2 | 1 February 2015                            |
|                    | Energy Australia         | Basic Home<br>Everyday Saver | Multinet 1<br>Multinet 2<br>Envestra Central 2<br>SP AusNet Central 1                                                           | 1 January 2015                             |
| South Australia    | AGL                      | Residential                  | Metropolitan<br>Mount Gambier<br>Port Pirie, Riverland<br>Whyalla                                                               | 1 July 2014                                |
|                    |                          | Origin Energy                | Residential<br>Adelaide<br>Mount Gambier<br>Port Pirie, Northern                                                                | 15 September 2014                          |
| New South Wales    | AGL                      | Residential                  | Jemena                                                                                                                          | 1 July 2014                                |
|                    | Origin Energy            | Domestic - General           | Aus Gas Networks Murray Valley<br>Jemena (AGL East)<br>Envestra (Albury)<br>Envestra (Murray Valley)                            | 1 July 2014                                |
|                    |                          | ActewAGL                     | Residential                                                                                                                     | Capital region<br>Queanbeyan<br>Shoalhaven |
| Queensland         | AGL Sales (Queensland)   | Residential                  | South East Queensland                                                                                                           | 1 July 2014                                |
|                    | Origin Energy            | Residential                  | Brisbane, Northern                                                                                                              | 15 September 2014                          |
| ACT                | ActewAGL                 | Residential                  |                                                                                                                                 | 1 July 2014                                |
| Western Australia  | Alinta                   | Residential                  | Coastal (Metro) Albany,<br>Kalgoorlie – Boulder                                                                                 | 1 July 2014                                |
| Northern Territory | No information available |                              |                                                                                                                                 |                                            |



## Business price comparison – data

**Table 6 Business tariffs**

| Jurisdiction       | Retailer                 | Tariffs used              | Distribution zone                                                                                                                                                 | Effective date                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tasmania           | Aurora                   | Small Business            |                                                                                                                                                                   | 1 January 2015                      |
|                    | Tas Gas                  | Commercial                |                                                                                                                                                                   | 1 January 2015                      |
| Victoria           | AGL                      |                           | Multinet Main 2<br>AusNet Central 1<br>AusNet Central 2                                                                                                           | 1 January 2015                      |
|                    | Origin Energy            |                           | Aus Gas Networks North<br>Aus Gas Networks Central 1<br>Aus Gas Networks Central 2<br>AusNet West<br>Aus Gas Networks Central 1<br>Aus Gas Networks Murray Valley | 1 February 2015                     |
|                    | Energy Australia         | Basic Business            | SP AusNet Central 1<br>Envestra Central 1<br>Envestra Central 2<br>Multinet Main 2                                                                                | 1 January 2015                      |
| South Australia    | AGL                      | Small Business            | Metropolitan<br>Mount Gambier<br>Port Pirie, Riverland Whyalla                                                                                                    | 1 July 2014                         |
|                    | Origin                   | Small Business            | Adelaide,<br>Mount Gambier,<br>Port Pirie                                                                                                                         | 1 July 2014                         |
| New South Wales    | ActewAGL                 | Industrial and Commercial | Queanbeyan<br>Capital<br>Shoalhaven                                                                                                                               | 1 July 2014                         |
|                    | AGL                      | Small Business            | Jemena                                                                                                                                                            | 1 July 2014                         |
|                    | Origin Energy            | Small Business            | Wagga Wagga and Uranquinty,<br>Tumut and Gundagai<br>Henty, Culcairn, Hollbrook and Walla Walla,<br>Cooma and Bombala<br>Albury, Murray Valley                    | 15 September 2014<br>1 January 2015 |
| Queensland         | AGL                      | Small Business            | South East Queensland                                                                                                                                             | 1 July 2014                         |
|                    | Origin Energy            | Commercial and Industrial | APT AllGas                                                                                                                                                        | 15 September 2014                   |
| ACT                | ActewAGL                 | Industrial and Commercial |                                                                                                                                                                   | 1 July 2014                         |
| Western Australia  | Alinta                   |                           | Metro Albany, Kalgoorlie-Boulder                                                                                                                                  | 1 July 2014                         |
| Northern Territory | No information available |                           |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                     |