RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY PRICE TRENDS REPORT END-YEAR 2019

STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS 09 DECEMBER 2019



- To estimate future retail electricity prices and bill outcomes for representative residential consumers in each Australian state and territory. The key components are the electricity consumption of representative consumers, representative retail electricity prices and the electricity supply chain cost components.
- To identify the changes in the energy supply chain cost components that are driving residential electricity prices and bills for each Australian state and territory (excluding the Northern Territory*), and nationally, from 2018-19 to 2021-22 (the reporting period).
- To explain the principal concepts and calculation methods that have been used to generate the results for the key components.

Explanations behind the exclusion of Northern Territory

- In previous years, the AEMC used the Territory Generation's bundled wholesale load following price provided by the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF) to perform the analysis. This price is no longer an accurate representation of wholesale costs in the DKIS due to the entry of independent generators to the Darwin-Katherine Interconnected System (DKIS). As such, publishing this price information would be misleading as an indicator of wholesale electricity prices and could undermine the integrity of future data reporting and analysis.
- Currently all commercial transactions in the Northern Territory's electricity market occur through bilateral contracts between generators and retailers, and information related to these contracts is commercial in confidence. The DTF has informed the AEMC that there does not appear to be any price that can be used for publication without the risk of providing misleading information around the movement of wholesale prices in the DKIS or revealing information that could be detrimental to competition.



Our approach

1. Overview of the approach

Results

- 2. Trends in national residential electricity prices and bills
- 3. Key drivers of trends in cost components by jurisdictions

Main assumptions

- 4. Electricity consumption and prices of representative customers
- 5. Electricity supply chain cost components

OUR APPROACH

Overview of the approach

- Representative customer approach we have estimated 2019-20 (2020 for Victoria) retail bills for representative customers, i.e., for a constructed 'typical' customer with an assumed level of consumption.
- Retail offers we have used retail offers obtained from Energy Made Easy and Victorian Energy Compare to estimate the jurisdictional average bill, weighted by retailer customer numbers.
- Wholesale costs* we calculate wholesale electricity purchase costs based on our own market modelling.
- **Environmental costs** are based on the information from the Clean Energy Regulator and jurisdictional data.
- **Regulated network costs**** are assumed to change in line with changes in the revenue allowances of TNSPs and DNSPs.
- All results are in nominal terms unless specified otherwise.

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^{*} Committed generation information sourced from AEMO.

^{**} Future potential interconnector upgrade costs are not included in the analysis. Regulated network costs may vary because of AER decisions on contingent project applications.

RESULTS TRENDS IN NATIONAL ELECTRICITY PRICES AND BILLS

National annual residential bill expects to go down over the reporting period*.

\$97

Annual nominal residential bill (weighted by customer numbers) is expected to decrease by 7.1 per cent over the **whole** reporting period.

*Note that this figure excludes Northern Territory – see slide 3 for explanation.





* A different methodology has been used for WA allowing the AEMC to estimate both electricity cost of supply and residential price. Our results for WA should be treated with caution given the different methodology that has been used to establish these prices. Residential prices are set by WA Government.

RESULTS KEY DRIVERS OF TRENDS IN COST COMPONENTS BY JURISDICTION

Trends in QLD supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go down by 12.4 per cent (or \$64) over reporting period.



 Regulated network costs* are expected to decrease by 14.7 per cent (or \$95) over reporting period driven by declines in Energex's revenue allowance.



 Environmental costs are expected to go down by 33.1 per cent (or \$24) over reporting period.



 Annual residential bill is expected to decrease by 19.5 per cent (or \$278) over reporting period, driven by decrease in regulated network costs and wholesale costs.

* The regulated network tariffs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 come from AER annual pricing proposals and in 2020-21 and 2021-22 come from AER draft distribution determinations.



What is driving a decrease in wholesale costs in QLD?



Total committed generation is only that category of generation sourced from AEMO that had reached financial close before the modelling was undertaken. Other new capacity may have been included as new generation within the modelling period. Since the modelling was undertaken, additional projects have been committed to across the NEM which would impact these results.

Trends in NSW supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go down by 15.3 per cent (or \$72) over the reporting period.



 Regulated network costs* are expected to decrease by 5.2 per cent (or \$32) over the reporting period driven by transmission cost.



 Environmental costs are expected to go down by 23.3 per cent (or \$19) over the reporting period driven by LGC costs.



 Annual residential bill is expected to decrease by 8.3 per cent (or \$107) over the reporting period, mainly driven by decrease in wholesale cost.

* The regulated network tariffs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 come from AER annual pricing proposals and in 2020-21 and 2021-22 come from AER final determinations.



What is driving a decrease in wholesale costs in NSW?



Total committed generation is only that category of generation sourced from AEMO that had reached financial close before the modelling was undertaken. Other new capacity may have been included as new generation within the modelling period. Since the modelling was undertaken, additional projects have been committed to across the NEM which would impact these results.

Trends in ACT supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go down by 15.7 per cent (or \$124) in over the reporting period.



 Regulated network costs* are expected to increase by 9.3 per cent (or \$54) over the reporting period driven by distribution cost.



 Environmental costs are expected to go down by 9.5 per cent (or \$21) over the reporting period.



 Annual residential bill is expected to decrease by 6.9 per cent (or \$134) over the reporting.



Trends in VIC supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go down by 16.8 per cent (or \$79) over the reporting period.



 Regulated network costs* are expected to increase by 8.2 per cent (or \$38) over the reporting period driven by distribution and transmission cost.



 Environmental costs are expected to go down by 23.4 per cent (or \$21) over the reporting period driven by the LGC cost.



 Annual residential bill is expected to decrease by 4.6 per cent (or \$53) over the reporting period, mainly driven by wholesale costs.



What is driving a decrease in wholesale costs in VIC?



Total committed generation is only that category of generation sourced from AEMO that had reached financial close before the modelling was undertaken. Other new capacity may have been included as new generation within the modelling period. Since the modelling was undertaken, additional projects have been committed to across the NEM which would impact these results.

Trends in SA supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go down by 10.0 per cent (or \$84) over the reporting period.



 Regulated network costs* are expected to increase by 4.4 per cent (or \$33) over the reporting period driven by transmission cost.



• Environmental costs are expected to go down by 10.6 per cent (or \$16) over the reporting period.



 Annual residential bill is expected to decrease by 1.5 per cent (or \$27) over the reporting period, mainly driven by wholesale cost.



* The regulated network tariffs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 come from AER annual pricing proposals and in 2020-21 and 2021-22 come from AER draft distribution determinations.

What is driving a decrease in wholesale costs in SA?



Total committed generation is only that category of generation sourced from AEMO that had reached financial close before the modelling was undertaken. Other new capacity may have been included as new generation within the modelling period. Since the modelling was undertaken, additional projects have been committed to across the NEM which would impact these results.

Trends in TAS supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go down by 10.9 per cent (or \$74) over the reporting period.



 Regulated network costs* are expected to increase by 1.5 per cent (or \$13) over the reporting period.



• Environmental costs are expected to go down by 36.2 per cent (or \$58) over the reporting period.



 Annual residential bill is expected to decrease by 4.9 per cent (or \$93) over the reporting period, driven by wholesale costs and environmental costs.

* The regulated network tariffs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 come AER from annual pricing proposals and in 2020-21 and 2021-22 come from AER final determinations.



Trends in WA supply chain components



• Wholesale costs are expected to go up by 7.5 per cent (or \$53) over the reporting period driven by gas price.



 Regulated network costs** are expected to be flat over the reporting period.



 Environmental costs are expected to go down by 33.7 per cent (or \$23) over the reporting period driven by the LGC cost.



 Annual residential bill is expected to increase by 6.4 per cent (or \$102) over the reporting period.

* Note that the **red** highlighted numbers show the difference between the cost of supply and residential price.

** The regulated network tariffs in 2018-19 and 2019-20 come from Western Power's annual price lists for network charges and in 2020-21 and 2021-22 come from Western Power's network access arrangement.



New build results – WA

	COAL PRICE*
2019/10	(\$/GJ
2010/19	3.01
2019/20	3.02
2020/21	3.02

TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY	GAS PRICE** (\$/GJ	1500 (MM) (ity)
2018/19	8.98	Capa
2019/20	9.47	1000-
2020/21	7.51	-
2021/22	7.68	500

*Based on the AEMO Input and Assumptions workbook 2019 – Lowest estimate for new coal entrant – February 2019 **Based on the GSOO WA 2018 – LNG netback prices base scenario ***Based on a representative customer load profile



Generation***



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• Spot price modelling:

- 1. Our spot price modelling assumes bidding behaviour mirrors historical bid profiles. We have calibrated bids so that our modelled spot prices align with current futures prices.
- 2. Nevertheless, the shape of our modelled prices i.e., *when* high prices occur is driven by historical bid profiles. Bidding behaviour may of course change, and this would affect our results.
- Network costs:
 - 1. Our analysis takes into account relevant information from the latest available network revenue determinations.

Retail offers:

- 1. We have assumed that the residual component of the bill, which is derived from the difference between September 2019 retail offers and the sum of the other cost components, remains constant in real terms.
- 2. In reality, the retail margin and retail costs may change over time, and this would affect our results.

Accuracy of estimated national prices on year ahead

National average prices and costs	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019/20
Source of estimated prices and costs	2013 report	2014 report	2015 report	2016 report	2016 report	2017 report	2018 report
Source of actual prices and costs	2014 report	2015 report	2016 report	2017 report	2018 report	2018 report	2019 report**
Total retail price							
Estimated price	27.95	26.83	25.21	25.8	26.49	29.58	28.69
Estimated price change		-1.12	-1.62	0.59	0.69	3.09	-0.89
Estimated direction of trend		Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease
Actual price	28.57	25.68	24.71	28.16	30.24	29.85	30.35
Actual price change		-2.89	-0.97	3.45	2.08	-0.39	0.5
Actual direction of trend		Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase
Accuracy of expected vs actual trend		Correct	Correct	Correct	Correct	Within 1%	Within 5%
Network costs							
Estimated price	14.4	14.23	11.93	12.07	12.2	13.57	13.49
Estimated price change		-0.17	-2.3	0.14	0.13	1.37	-0.08
Estimated direction of trend		Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase	Decrease
Actual price	13.87	13.37	12.24	13.63	13.22	13.33	13.36
Actual price change		-0.5	-1.13	1.39	-0.41	0.11	0.03
Actual direction of trend		Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
Accuracy of expected vs actual trend		Correct	Correct	Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Within 1%
Wholesale costs*							
Estimated price	5.26	10.49	11.18	7.39	8.14	11.28	10.34
Estimated price change		5.23	0.69	-3.8	0.75	3.14	-0.94
Estimated direction of trend		Increase	Increase	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Decrease
Actual price	10.3	10.52	10.38	10.01	11.7	11.72	12.14
Actual price change		0.22	-0.14	-0.37	1.69	0.02	0.42
Actual direction of trend		Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Increase	Increase
Accuracy of expected vs actual trend		Correct	Incorrect	Correct	Correct	Correct	Incorrect
Environmental costs							
Estimated price	4.49	2.11	2.1	2.18	1.87	1.78	2.07
Estimated price change		-2.38	-0.01	0.08	-0.31	-0.09	0.29
Estimated direction of trend		Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Increase
Actual price	4.39	1.79	2.08	2.01	1.75	2.08	1.94
Actual price change		-2.6	0.29	-0.07	-0.26	0.33	-0.14
Actual direction of trend		Decrease	Increase	Decrease	Decrease	Increase	Decrease
Accuracy of expected vs actual trend		Correct	Within 1%	Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Incorrect

Source: AEMC 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 Residential Electricity Price Trends reports. Note: * For 2014-15 and 2015-16, expected and actual wholesale and retail costs were combined and presented as 'competitive market costs'. For 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 the comparison of actual and expected results are for wholesale costs only. ** For 2019 report, the figures are estimated by excluding Northern Territory.

Comparing electricity cost to inflation and wages growth



Source: ABS 6401.0 – Sep 2019, ABS 6345.0 – June 2019 and AEMC analysis.

Note: * Note that the standing offer forward estimates differ to the estimates of the growth rates of the national residential prices presented at the start of the slide pack because the latter estimates contain estimates from other jurisdictions, which use market offer data rather than standing offer data.

MAIN ASSUMPTIONS

ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AND PRICES OF REPRESENTATIVE CUSTOMERS

Electricity consumption of representative customers

- Representative customers are defined by their electricity consumption characteristics, which are their total annual electricity consumption measured in kWh and how this consumption varies through the year, on a quarterly basis.
- Data provided by the AER from their 2017 Electricity Bill Benchmarks are used to estimate the annual consumption value and quarterly breakdown for most jurisdictions.
- Equivalent values to the AER are provided by jurisdictions in South Australia and Western Australia.

• The AER benchmark values are based on a survey of around 8,000 households where participants are asked about their homes and the way in which they use electricity.

The same consumption levels have been used for the whole reporting period

 Table 3: Annual consumption of representative consumer – based on AER benchmark values

JURISDICTION	MOST COMMON HOUSEHOLD TYPES	CONSUMPTION BY TYPE (KWH)	TOTAL ANNUAL CONSUMPTION (KWH)
Queensland	2 person household, no mains gas, air conditioning, off-peak hot water and on a market offer	Tariff 41: 4,434 Tariff 33 (Controlled Load 2): 806	5,240
New South Wales	2 person household; mains gas and on a market offer	4,215	4,215
Australian Capital Territory	2 person household, no mains gas, electricity water heating and on the regulated standing offer	7,151	7,151
Victoria	2 person household, mains gas and on market offer	3,865	3,865
Tasmania	2 person household, no mains gas, electric water heading and on the regulated standing offer	Tariff 31 (Lighting): 3,559 Tariff 41 (Heating): 4,349	7,908

Source: AER

The same consumption levels have been used for the whole reporting period

 Table 4: Annual consumption of representative consumer – provided by jurisdictional governments

JURISDICTION	MOST COMMON HOUSEHOLD TYPES	GENERAL CONSUMPTION (KWH)	TOTAL ANNUAL CONSUMPTION (KWH)
South Australia	2 person household; mains gas and on a market offer	5,000	5,000
Western Australia	2 person household, no mains gas, electricity water heating and on the regulated standing offer	4904	4904

Source: South Australia Government and Western Australia Government

Representative retail electricity prices





Our analysis has used the lowest offer for each retailer

Actual retail offers for 2018-19 and 2019-20

Table 5: Sources of electricity pricing data

JURISDICTION	OFFER	2018-19	2019-20	
	Standing	Retailer offers obtained from Energy Made	Retailer offers obtained from Energy Made Easy on 20 September 2019	
NSW, ACT, SA	Market	Easy on 1 July 2018		
South East Standing		Retailer offers obtained from Energy Made	Retailer offers obtained from Energy Made	
Queensland	Market	Easy on 1 July 2018	Easy on 20 September 2019	
Tasmania	Standing	Aurora Energy approved standing offer prices from 1 July 2018	Aurora Energy approved standing offers prices from 1 July 2019	
	Market	None	None	
Victoria	Standing	Nono	None	
	Market	None		
Western Australia	Government set prices	2018-19 Electricity Price Order	2019-20 Electricity Price Order	
	Market	None	None	

Source: AEMC and cited sources

Note: Victorian price changes occur on a calendar year basis, unlike all other jurisdictions where price changes occur on a financial year basis. Data used for estimating Victorian offer price in 2019 come from Victorian Energy Compare on 1 August 2019.

Process of calculating a jurisdictional average price



MAIN ASSUMPTIONS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CHAIN COST COMPONENTS

Regulated network costs

Regulated network costs are estimated using Annual Pricing Proposals produced by the distributed network service providers (DNSPs) before each new financial year (or calendar year for Victorian network businesses). These proposals are to be approved by the AER and set out the overall network use of service (NUOS) charge for each tariff class. This can be broken down into the:

- transmission use of service charge (TUOS)
- distribution use of service charge (DUOS)
- metering charges (capital and non-capital)
- jurisdictional scheme costs (if applicable).

We assume the representative consumer in each jurisdiction still has a Type 6 accumulation meter owned by a DNSP.

Regulated network costs – Network tariff sources and regulatory periods



Wholesale electricity costs in the NEM

Ancillary services are those services used by the market operator to manage key technical characteristics of the power system, such as frequency control. Based on AEMO's historical 2016/17 to 2018/19 ancillary service settlement data, we have used 3-year moving average to interpolate results in future years. Costs in Western Australia are estimated using information from the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA).

Estimated transmission and distribution loss factors were based on AEMO's 2018/19 and 2019/20 loss factor data, except for Tasmania where the factors were obtained from the Tasmania Energy Regulator's (TER) retail pricing determination.



There are many steps in the process of calculating wholesale electricity purchase costs. In subsequent slides we will examine these in details.

Market fees are charges to market participants to cover the operational expenditures of AEMO. AEMO's estimated market fees have been used for the reporting period. The actual NEM fee for 2018-19 is \$0.44/MWh. The fee is then estimated to increase to 12% for each of the forward 4 years.

Wholesale electricity purchase costs



Wholesale electricity purchase costs – Main assumptions



*Electricity Statement of Opportunities **Probability of Exceedance

1. Create price paths using market modelling



2. Calculate optimal hedging portfolio





3. Calculate wholesale electricity purchase costs for each DNSP

Calculate standalone long run marginal cost (LRMC) for Western Australia



Environmental costs – Renewable energy target - LRET

LGCs (Large-scale generation certificates) price - \$/MWh Renewable energy percentage (RPP)

Fair value of the subsidy required for a new entrant renewable generator entering into a power purchase agreement (PPA) to recover its fixed and variable costs. This is based on the LGC closing rates from Mercari. Minister for Energy set the RPP by the end of March each year, which is based on the legislated 33,000 GWh by 2020. Since the RPP is set on a calendar year basis, a 75/25 per cent split has been used to convert it to financial year basis due to the release date. The calculation of RPP is the quantity of renewable electricity required to meet the annual target (accounting for any prior year carryovers) divided by the total electricity acquisitions (equivalent to their total customer base's consumption level, less any exemptions, such as for emissions intensive trade exposed industries).

LRET cost - \$MWh

Environmental costs – Renewable energy target - SRES

STCs (Small-scale technology certificates) price - \$/MWh Small-scale technology percentage (STP)

STCs are traded in the wholesale market, so the price depends on the supply and demand for certificates. Price is assumed to be at \$35/MWh. The small-scale technology percentage is set in the same way as the RPP but rather than adjusting it to meet a target like done in the LRET scheme, it is set to adjust demand for certificates to balance supply. STP also uses a 75/25 per cent split. The calculation of STP is the estimated number of STCs to be created for the year (accounting for any prior year carry-overs) divided by the total electricity acquisitions (equivalent to their total customer base's consumption level, less any exemptions, such as for emissions intensive trade exposed industries).

SRES cost - \$MWh

Environmental costs – Renewable energy target – SRES - STCs



Residual component or retail cost



Method of deriving the residual component from the retail offer price



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