

Competition in NSW energy retailing and path to price deregulation



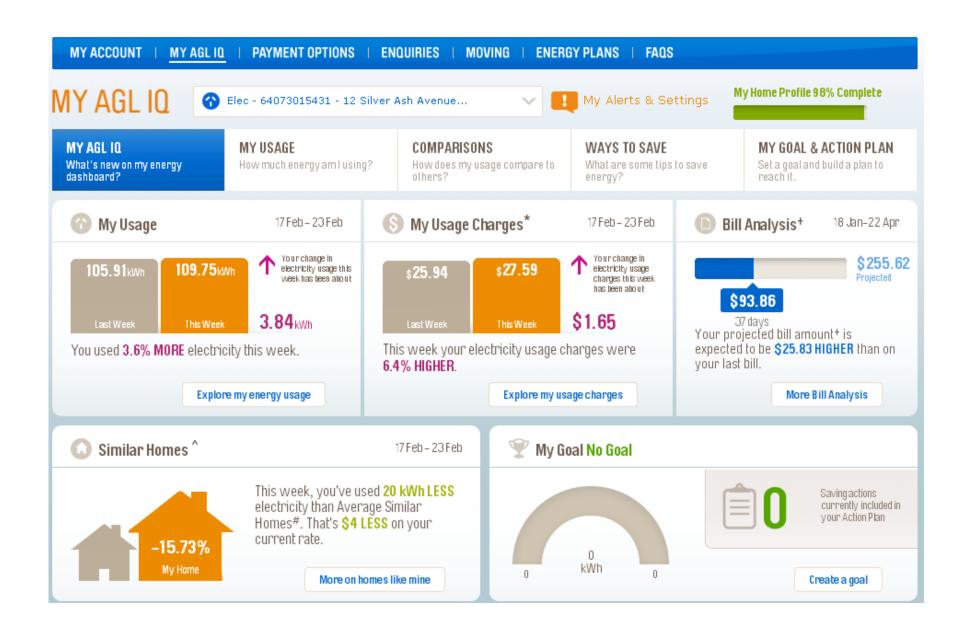


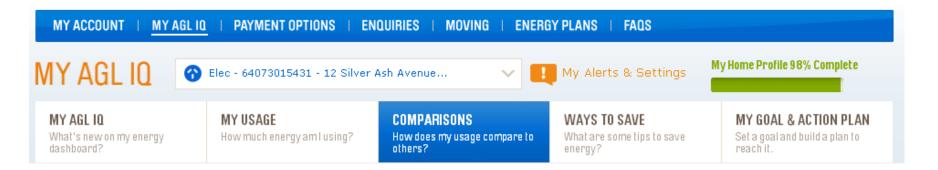
Presentation to AEMC public forum March 20, 2013

Indicators of competition

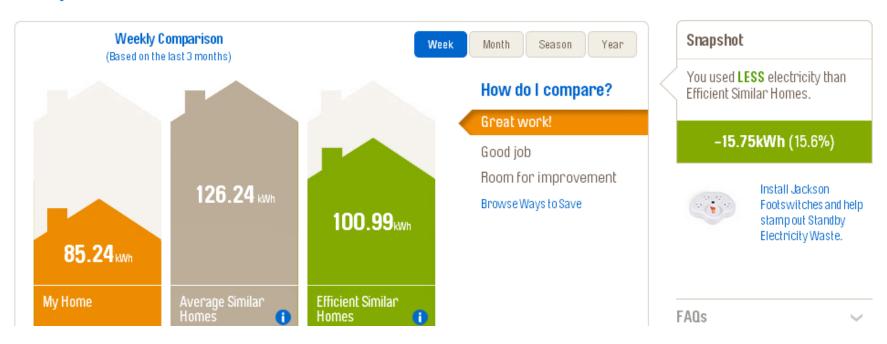
- Strong rivalry between competitors for sale of electricity/gas.
- Product differentiation with scope for significant development with price deregulation.

My AGL IQ - free national online energy monitoring tool that will help AGL customers to track & reduce their energy usage



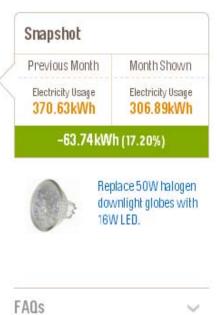


Comparisons

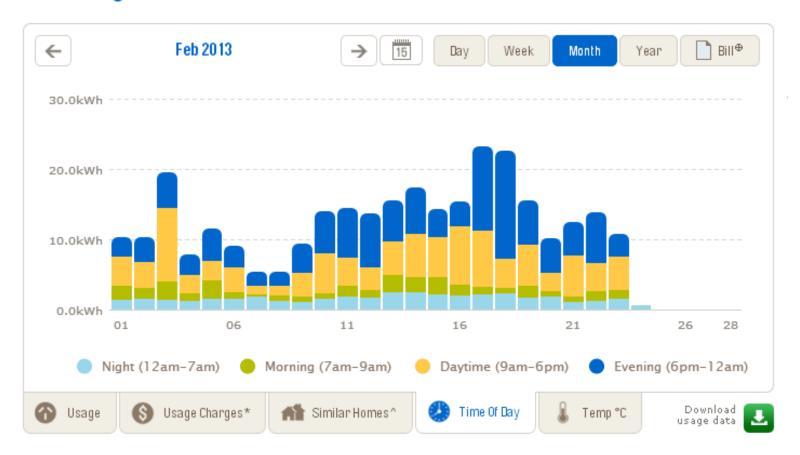


My Usage





My Usage



Indicators of competition

- High customer switching rates around 19% for electricity and 14% for gas.
 - Compare this to other industries: insurance (12%), health (4%).
- Good customer awareness of ability to change retailers and many sources of information on availability of competing products.
- Barriers to entry, expansion and exit do not preclude entry/exit from market
 - => effective competition for retailing gas and electricity in New South Wales.

Biggest threat is unnecessary regulatory intrusion on retailers' pricing decisions in a well functioning market.

Numerous benefits would flow from retail price deregulation

- Meaningful product differentiation (involving more than just discounting) between retailers, and within individual retailers' product offerings, such as different shaped tariffs to suit different consumption profiles.
 - Time of use tariffs
 - Dynamic critical peak pricing
 - Tariffs tailored for high/low consumption profiles different combinations of high/low fixed supply charges and higher/lower variable energy charges.
 - Energy conservation tariffs rebates provided consumption remains below certain kWh level on certain days.

Transition to deregulation

- Immediate transition for all customers at the same time (South Australian model).
 - Would lead to healthy level of market stability and certainty.
 - Would ensure that the full benefits of competition, and tariff and product innovation, would be able to be utilised by all customers from the outset.
- Needs to be accompanied by consumer education campaign.
- IPART to adopt price monitoring role.