



# Tasmanian Energy Prices July 2022

An update report on the Tasmanian Tariff-Tracking Project



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## **Tasmanian Energy Prices July 2022**

An Update Report on the Tasmanian Tariff-Tracking Project

May Mauseth Johnston, August 2022

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**Disclaimer**

The energy offers, tariffs and bill calculations presented in this report and associated workbooks should be used as a general guide only and should not be relied upon. The workbooks are not an appropriate substitute for obtaining an offer from an energy retailer. The information presented in this report and the workbooks is not provided as financial advice. While we have taken great care to ensure accuracy of the information provided in this report and the workbooks, they are suitable for use only as a research and advocacy tool. We do not accept any legal responsibility for errors or inaccuracies. The St Vincent de Paul Society and Alviss Consulting Pty Ltd do not accept liability for any action taken based on the information provided in this report or the associated workbooks or for any loss, economic or otherwise, suffered as a result of reliance on the information presented. If you would like to obtain information about energy offers available to you as a customer, go to AER's [‘Energy Made Easy’](#) website or contact the energy retailers directly.

**Acknowledgements**

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The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of Energy Consumers Australia.

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## The Tasmanian Tariff-Tracking Project

This project has tracked electricity tariffs in Tasmania from July 2009 to July 2022 and developed a spreadsheet-based tool that allows consumer advocates to build on the initial analysis and continue to track changes as they occur.

We have developed three workbooks that allow the user to enter consumption levels and analyse household bills for electricity offers from July 2009 to July 2022, as well as current published gas and electricity market offers.<sup>1</sup> A more recent addition to the Tariff-Tracking project is market offers available to new solar customers. The workbook allows users to calculate annual bills based on retailers' rates, feed in tariffs offered and additional discounts. Again, the user can enter consumption level as well as choosing to run the bill calculation based on 1.5 kW or 3 kW solar systems.

**Workbook 1:** Regulated and market electricity offers July 2009 - July 2022

**Workbook 2:** Gas market offers post July 2013 - July 2022

**Workbook 3:** Solar offers July 2016 - July 2022

The jurisdictional update reports will be followed by a NEM comparison report that discusses market issues and customer impacts in more detail as well as making recommendations.

All workbooks and reports can be accessed at the St Vincent de Paul Society's website: [www.vinnies.org.au/energy](http://www.vinnies.org.au/energy)

<sup>1</sup> In previous updates there was also a Pay as you go electricity offers (July 2009 - July 2019) workbook. As this product no longer exists this workbook has been discontinued.

# 1. Introduction

Tasmania implemented the National Energy Customer Framework (NECF) on 1 July 2012 and the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) thus assumed jurisdiction over customer protections. On 1 July 2014, Tasmania introduced full retail competition. While only one retailer (1<sup>st</sup> Energy) initially competed with Aurora Energy’s regulated standard rates, in July 2021 Energy Locals and Future X Power also entered the Tasmanian market. However Future X Power withdrew their offers in 2022, leaving Energy Locals and 1<sup>st</sup> Energy to compete with Aurora Energy.

The average gas consumption (40,000 MJ per annum) for Tasmanian households is lower than in Victoria and the ACT but greater than in South Australia, NSW and Queensland. However, relatively few Tasmanian households are connected to reticulated gas (approximately 12,800 households).<sup>2</sup> Gas retail prices are not regulated in Tasmania and there are currently two retailers offering gas to residential customers: Aurora Energy and Tas Gas.

## Assumptions

Consistent with our previous reports, we have assumed a typical household consumption of 9,060 kWh per annum for all-electric households, 40,000 MJ per annum for gas, and 6,400 kWh per annum in electricity consumption for dual fuel households on a single rate tariff for the analysis presented in this report.<sup>3</sup> In 2016, Aurora Energy introduced a new two-part time of use tariff (Tariff 93) that attracts a peak rate on weekday mornings from 7am to 10am and weekday evenings from 4pm to 9pm. Consumption outside these times attracts the off-peak rate. For Tariff 93 we have used the same consumption split as that used for tariff 41. Table 1 shows the consumption splits used the analysis presented in this report.<sup>4</sup>

**TABLE 1 | Assumptions: consumption splits for standard tariffs<sup>5</sup>**

Tariff type	Tariff combination	Consumption split (%)
Hot water/space heating (41)	31 + 41	60:40
Hot water/space heating (41) with off peak boost (61)	31 + 41 + 61	40:30:30
Time of Use (T93)	93	60:40

<sup>2</sup> OTTER, Energy in Tasmania, Performance Report 2017-18, December 2017, 31 and 41

<sup>3</sup> OTTER states that a typical Tasmanian customer uses around 9,055 kWh per annum. Otter, Comparison of 2013 Australian Standing Offer Energy Prices, April 2013 (page 19 for gas and page 10 for electricity). To estimate the combined energy bill for dual fuel households we have assumed that they use approximately 30% less electricity compared to all-electric households. Note that the Tariff-Tracking tool (the workbooks) is designed so users can insert their own consumption levels.

<sup>4</sup> These allocations are based on analysis presented in OTTER, Information Paper, Typical Electricity Customers, September 2010. Note that OTTER have since adjusted these figures but as the purpose of the Tariff-Tracking project is to track changes to prices over time, we base the analysis on the original assumptions used for consumption levels and proportions.

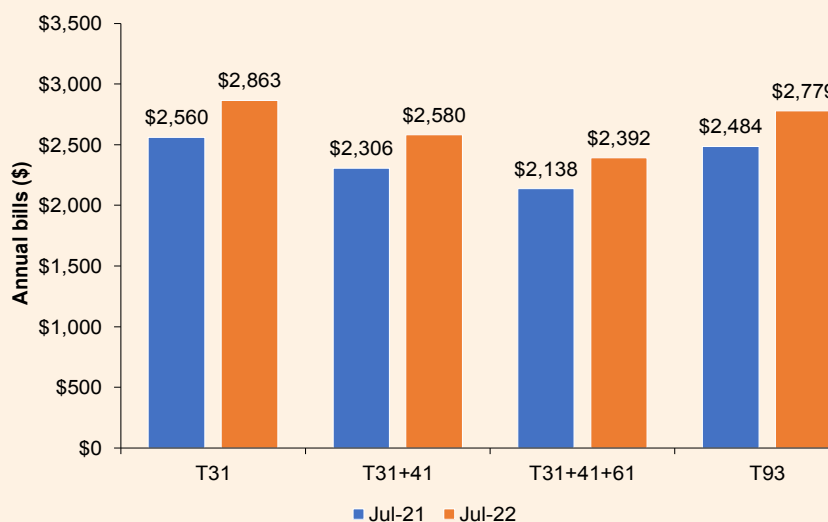
<sup>5</sup> Tariff 31 is the general light and power tariff (single rate tariff) that can also be applied in combination with off peak tariffs. In relation to the Time of Use tariff (T93), OTTER has not published consumption splits to date and we are therefore basing this split on the T31/T41 combination. Note that TasNetworks has advised us that based on more recent billing data they use a 46:54 split for tariffs 31/41, a 44:42:14 for tariffs 31/41/61 and 32:68 for tariff 93. We therefore reiterate that the purpose of the Tariff-Tracker is to analyse changes to prices over time and that customers’ experience may be different due to changes in overall consumption and/or splits. The workbooks accompanying this report, however, allow users to enter their preferred consumption levels and tariff splits.

## 2. Electricity and gas price changes from July 2021 to July 2022

In terms of general trends, the tariff analysis has found that:

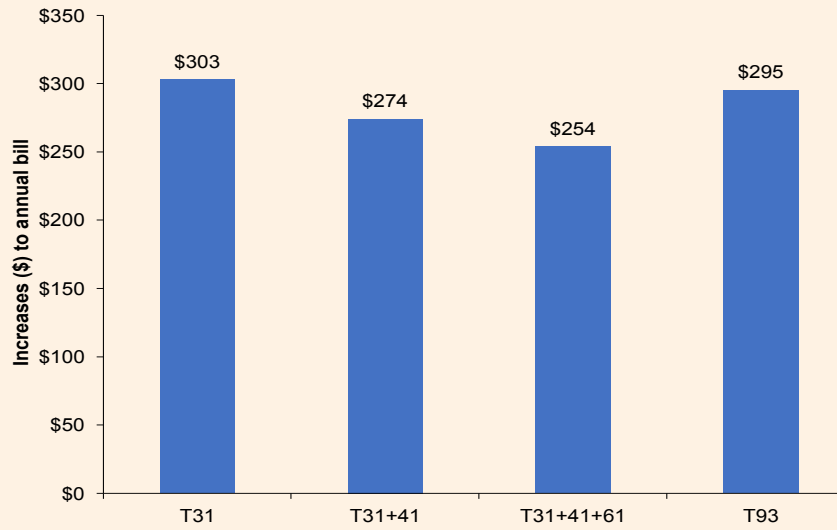
- Compared to last year (July 2021), regulated annual electricity bills have increased for average consumption households for tariffs 31 and 93 by around 11%. This year the annual bill for households on Tariff 31 consuming 9,060 kWh/annum will be approximately \$2,865. See chart 1 below.
- Tasmanian regulated electricity retail prices that took effect in July 2022 produce annual bills that are approximately \$255 - \$305 more than they were last year (July 2021). See chart 2 below.
- In 2022, both Aurora Energy and Tas Gas' gas prices rose by \$70 and \$85 per annum (or 4% and 5%) respectively. Customers of both retailers continue to have an annual average bill of approximately \$1,880 (based on an annual consumption of 40,000 MJ). See chart 3 below.

**CHART 1 | Regulated electricity prices as of July 2021 and July 2022 for tariffs 31, 31/41, 31/41/61 and 93, annual bills for households consuming 9,060 kWh per annum (incl. GST)\***

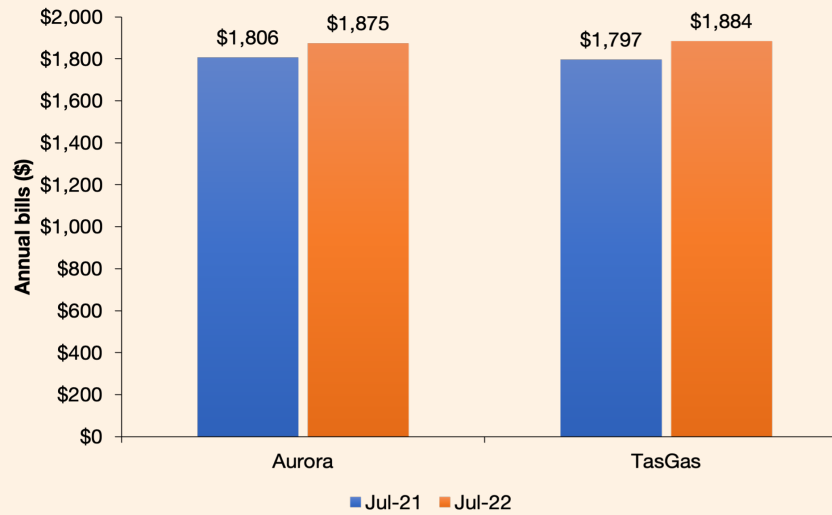


\* See Table 1 for a breakdown of the consumption splits used for these calculations.

**CHART 2 |** Changes to the annual bill from July 2021 to July 2022, regulated electricity prices for households consuming 9,060 kWh per annum on Tariffs 31, 31/41, 31/41/61 and 93



**CHART 3 |** Gas prices as of July 2021 and July 2022, as annual bills, 40,000 MJ per annum (incl. GST)





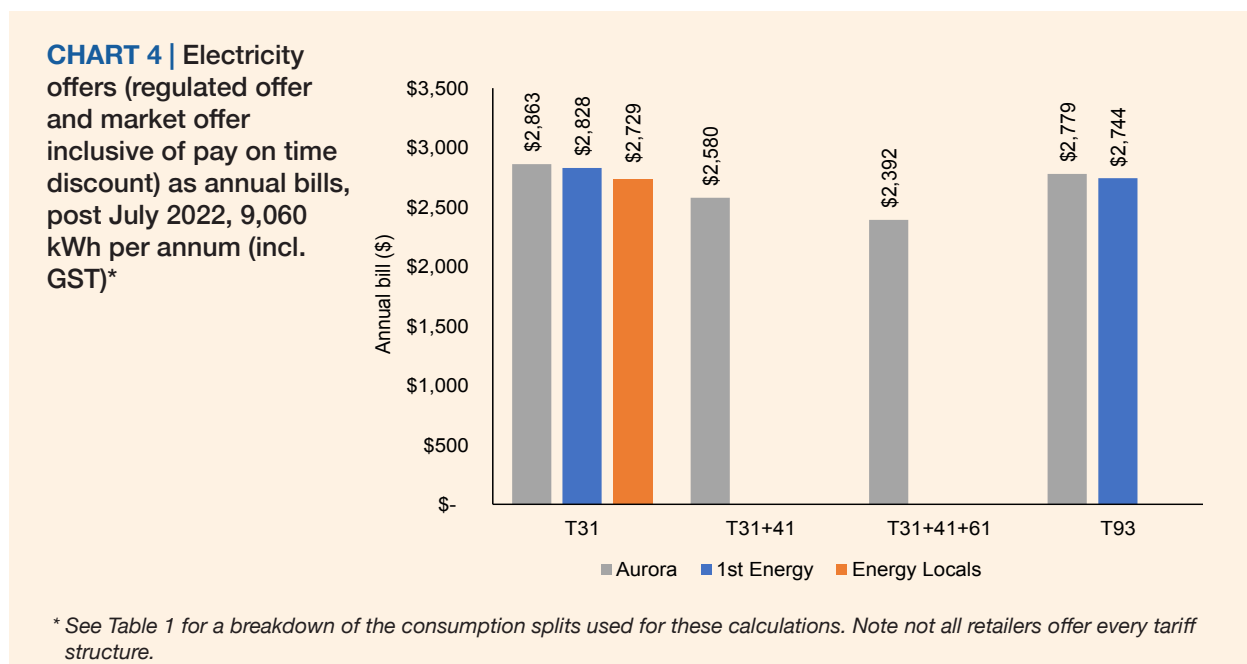
### 3. Regulated and market offers post July 2022

Although Tasmania introduced full retail competition in July 2014, only one retailer (1<sup>st</sup> Energy) initially entered the residential electricity market to compete with Aurora Energy’s regulated standard rates. As of July 2022, residential electricity customers can choose between offers from three retailers: Aurora Energy’s regulated standard rates, market offers from 1<sup>st</sup> Energy and Energy Locals, and the Aurora+ products.<sup>6</sup>

There are three main tariff types for the standard rates: the flat rate (tariff 31), flat rate combined with a hot water tariff (tariff 41) and flat rate combined with tariff 41 as well as an afternoon boost tariff (tariff 61).<sup>7</sup> The time of use (TOU) tariff (tariff 93) was introduced in July 2016.

#### 3.1 Electricity: Regulated and market offers post July 2022<sup>8</sup>

Chart 4 below shows that households using 9,060 kWh per annum on the regulated offer will have an annual electricity bill of between \$2,390 and \$2,865 (depending on tariff type). Customers on 1<sup>st</sup> Energy’s market offer would have an annual electricity bill that ranged between \$2,745 and \$2,830 (depending on tariff type), while those on Energy Locals’ offer would have an annual bill of \$2,730 (Tariff 31 only). Aurora Energy’s regulated offer is the most expensive for each tariff type where there is competition.

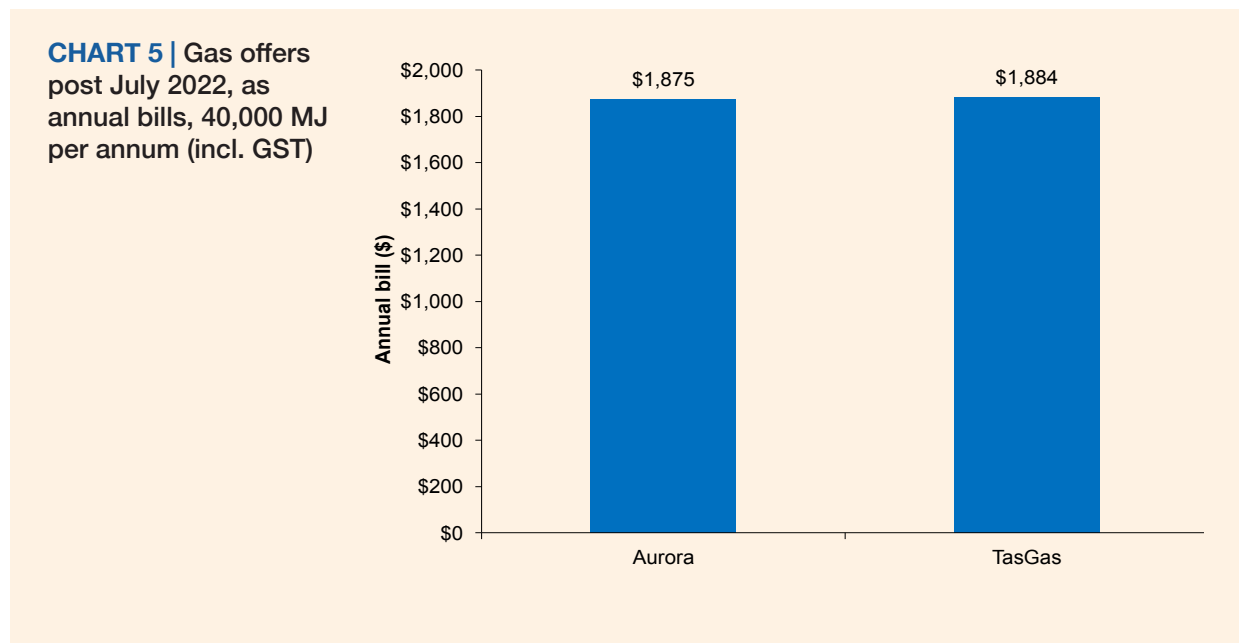


6 The Aurora+ product is a more recent product available to customers on a flat rate with controlled load (tariff 31 and 41) and customers on the TOU tariff (T93). Customers on Aurora+ get access to an app where they can track usage and costs, as well as managing their (monthly) bills.  
 7 See Aurora’s price fact sheets available at <https://www.auroraenergy.com.au/residential/products/residential-all-prices>  
 8 These electricity market offers were collected from the retailers’ websites or from Energy Made Easy between the 10th and 14th of July 2022. It should be noted that retailers can change their rates at any time.

### 3.2 Gas market offers post July 2022<sup>9</sup>

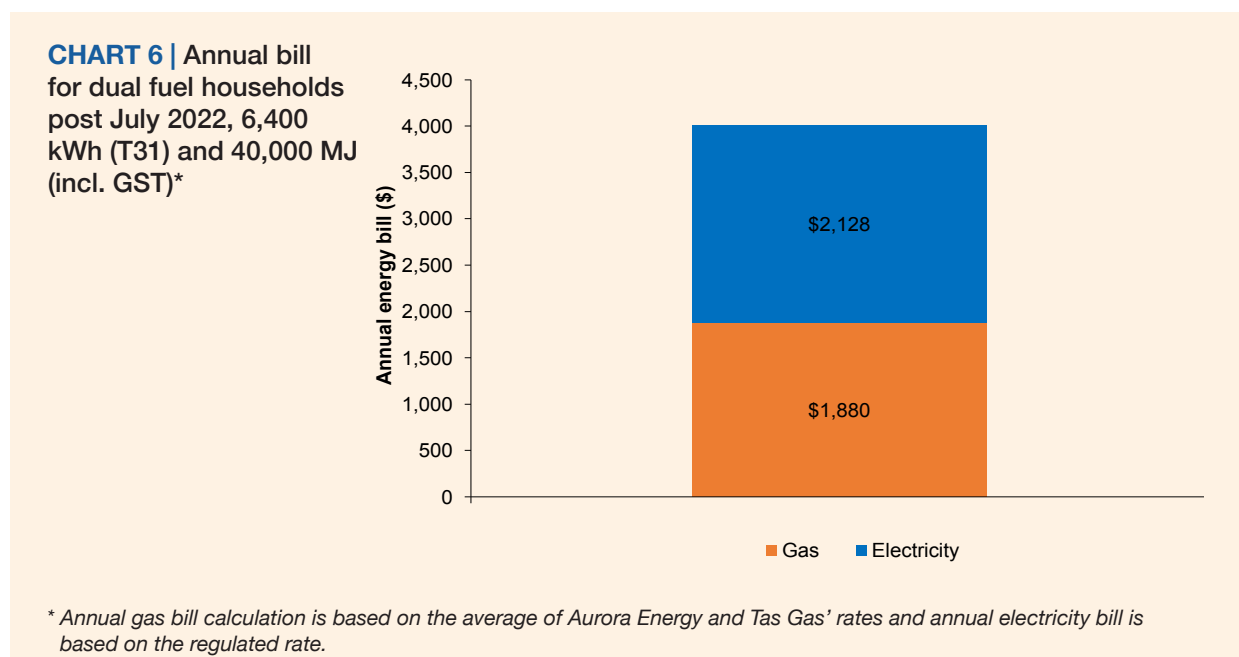
There are no regulated gas offers in Tasmania and only Aurora Energy and Tas Gas Retail currently have gas market offers for residential consumers.

Chart 5 below shows that an Aurora Energy customer with average gas consumption will pay approximately \$1,875 per annum while a Tas Gas customer with the same consumption level will pay approximately \$1,884 per annum (approximately \$9 difference).



### 3.3 Energy costs for dual fuel households post July 2022

Households with reticulated gas will typically have higher energy bills compared to all-electric households.<sup>10</sup> Chart 6 below shows that a dual fuel household consuming 6,400 kWh of electricity per annum (approximately 30% less than an average all-electric household) and 40,000 MJ of gas will have an annual energy bill of around \$4,000.



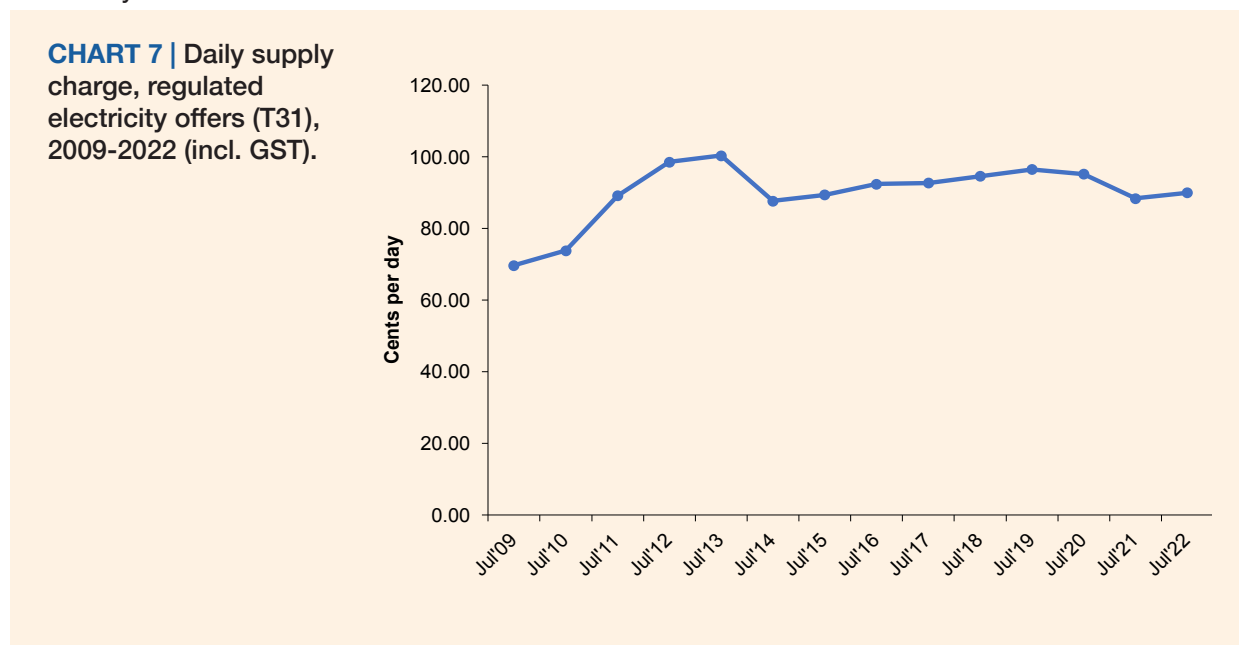
9 These gas market offers were collected from the retailers' websites or from Energy Made Easy on the 27th of July 2022. It should be noted that retailers can change their rates at any time.

10 It should be noted, however, that many all-electric households have other heating expenses such as firewood or liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

## 4. Supply charges

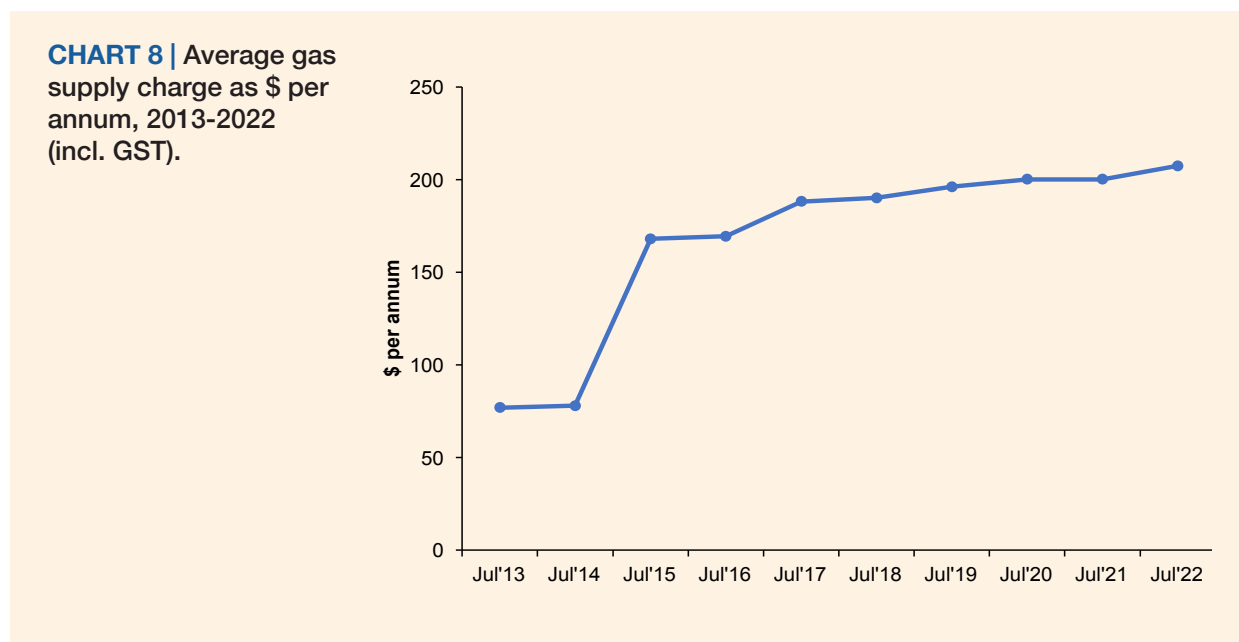
### 4.1 Electricity supply charges

The supply charge is a fixed daily charge that is paid in addition to the consumption charges for electricity used. In July 2022 the electricity supply charge increased by 2%. This means that as of July 2022 customers on the flat rate (tariff 31) pay approximately \$330 per annum in fixed supply charges.<sup>11</sup> Chart 7 below shows the changes to the daily supply charges for regulated electricity rates from 2013 to 2022.



### 4.2 Gas supply charges

The gas supply charge of 57 cents/day is significantly lower than the electricity supply charges and has increased slightly (2 cents/day) since July 2021 after remaining static the previous year. Tasmanian households currently pay around \$210 per annum in order to be connected to natural gas.<sup>12</sup> Chart 8 shows annual supply charge for gas customers from July 2013 to July 2022.



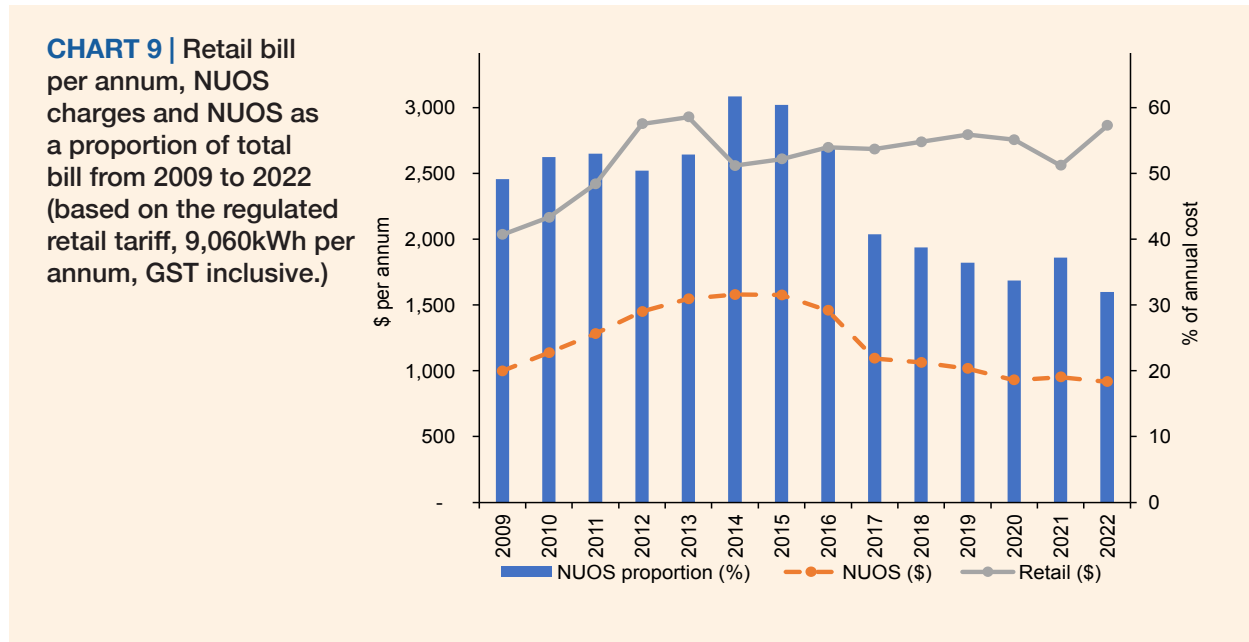
11 Note that households on combination tariffs, such as Tariff 31 and Tariff 41, have higher supply charges than households on Tariff 31 only.

12 The annual supply charge is the average of Aurora Energy and Tas Gas' supply charges

## 5. Network charges

The Tasmanian electricity network, TasNetworks, introduces new Network Use of System (NUOS) charges in July every year. These NUOS charges are approved by the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and comprise Transmission Use of System (TUOS) and Distribution Use of System (DUOS) as well as other costs such as jurisdictional charges.

The NUOS charges consist of both usage charges (c/kWh) and a fixed supply charge (c/day). Chart 9 below shows annual retail bills for Tariff 31 (solid line), NUOS charges as annual cost (dotted line) and NUOS as proportion of annual bill (columns). It shows that the NUOS charge and NUOS as a proportion of a bill have decreased as the overall retail bill has increased.



## 6. Solar offers<sup>13</sup>

There are over 44,000 small scale rooftop solar systems in Tasmania.<sup>14</sup> There is a regulated FIT rate that is reviewed on an annual basis and it currently pays 8.883 c/kWh. Retailers may offer a greater voluntary FIT rate than the regulated rate and 1<sup>st</sup> Energy currently has a Solar Bonus offer with a FIT rate of 10 c/kWh.

This section analyses electricity bills for Tasmanian customers with 1.5 kW and 3 kW systems installed.<sup>15</sup>

### Methodology and assumptions

To calculate the annual bills for the regulated solar offers the following assumptions and methodology have been applied:

- | An annual household consumption of 9,060 kWh (including both produced and imported).
- | Calculations have been produced for households with 1.5 kW and 3 kW systems only.
- | An annual generation capacity per kW installed of 1.185 MWh and an export rate of 47.4% for 3 kW systems and 14.9% for 1.5 kW systems.<sup>16</sup>
- | Only FIT rates available to new customers have been included. The regulated FIT rate is currently 8.883 c/kWh (excl. GST).
- | For tariffs with an off-peak component, we have used the same load allocations applied to the non-solar analysis above (see table 1).
- | A flat annual consumption has been assumed.

The average annual bill is approximately \$2,140 for households with 3kW systems and \$2,380 for households with 1.5kW systems installed.<sup>17</sup> Charts 10 and 11 below compare annual bills for Tasmanian customers with 3kW and 1.5kW solar systems on Aurora, 1<sup>st</sup> Energy and Energy Locals' offers. It shows that Tariff 31 customers with 3kW systems could save up to \$75 by switching from the regulated offer (Aurora) to Energy Locals (chart 10). For customers with 1.5kW systems, customers may save around \$90 by switching from the regulated offer (Aurora) to Energy Locals (chart 11).

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13 These market offers were collected from the retailers' websites or from Energy Made Easy between the 10th and 14th of July 2022. It should be noted that retailers can change their rates at any time.

14 Small scale is defined as systems up to 100 kW. Clean Energy Council, Clean Energy Australia Report 2022, 76

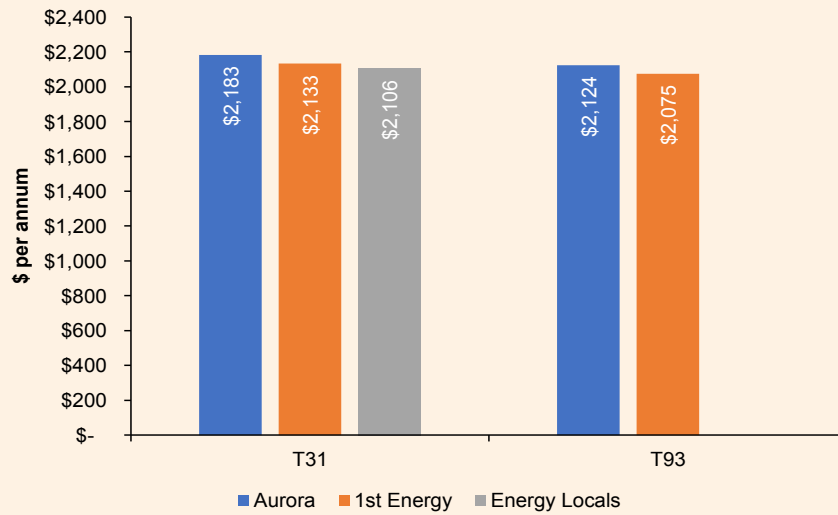
15 We note that these systems are small compared to the size of the typical systems that are currently being installed. However, as a key objective of the Tariff-Tracker is to compare developments over time, we continue to base the analysis on 3 kW and 1.5 kW systems.

16 The 1.185 MWh generation capacity is based on small-scale technology certificates (STC) for zone 4. The export rates are based on Melbourne and might therefore assume a slightly higher export rate than the Tasmanian average.

17 Based on Aurora's regulated offer, 1st Energy's Solar bonus offer and Energy Locals market offer (Tariff 31).



**CHART 10 | Annual bills including discounts and FIT credits for customers with a 3kW solar system. Electricity offers post July 2022 as annual, flat rate, 9,060kWh per annum, GST inclusive.**



**CHART 11 | Annual bills including discounts and FIT credits for customers with a 1.5kW solar system. Electricity offers post July 2022 as annual, flat rate, 9,060kWh per annum, GST inclusive.**

