

Victoria Energy Prices July 2021

An update report on the Victorian Tariff-Tracking Project



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The Victorian Tariff-Tracking Project

To date, this project has tracked electricity and gas tariffs in Victoria from July 2008 (retail price deregulation took effect on 1 January 2009) to July 2021 and developed a spreadsheet-based tool that allows consumer advocates to build on the initial analysis and continue to track changes as they occur. In 2016, market offers available to new solar customers were added to the Tariff-Tracking project. 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.

We have developed five workbooks that allow the user to enter consumption levels and analyse household bills for gas and electricity:

Workbook 1: Electricity standing offers July 2008 – July 2021 Workbook 2: Gas standing offers July 2008 – July 2021 Workbook 3: Electricity market offers 2010 to 2021 Workbook 4: Gas market offers 2010 to 2021 Workbook 5: Solar market offers 2016 to 2021

The five workbooks can be accessed at the St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria's website: <u>www.vinnies.org.au/energy</u>

Key findings

In terms of key findings, the Victorian tariff analysis found that:

- I On average, across all five network areas, the VDO increased by approximately \$65 (or 4%) in September 2021. However, if we compare September 2021 to January 2019 (when retailers still determined their own standing offers), there have been significant price reductions. See charts 1 -3 below.
- I Gas standing offers increased in January 2021 and have remained unchanged since then. Since July 2020, gas standing offers have increased by 2% to 5% (on average). Origin's price increases are greatest in the Ausnet pricing zones while Energy Australia's price increases are greatest in the Multinet area. See chart 4 below.
- 1 Typical consumption households (4,800kWh per annum) on the VDO can save around \$385 and \$435 per annum if switching to the best published market offer (depending on their network area).¹ This potential saving is somewhat larger compared to last year (July 2020), when the maximum saving was between \$365 - \$420 per annum. It is, however, significantly less compared to January 2019 (prior to the VDO taking effect), when the maximum saving was \$1,800-\$2,270 per annum, if switching from the worst standing offer to the best market offer. See section 2.1.
- I The difference between the best and the worst market offers ranges from just over \$385 per annum (in United Energy's area) to \$435 (in Jemena's area) for customers with typical consumption levels.² See section 2.1.1.
- QEnergy's market offers produce the lowest annual bill for average consumption households in four out of five network areas. Momentum, on the other hand, has the most expensive market offers in four out of five network areas.³ See section 2.1.1.
- While all retailers have changed their market offers in since January 2021, some decreased their rates while others increased. Simply Energy, Powerclub and Momentum are the retailers with the greatest price increases while CovaU, GloBird and Energy Locals had the greatest price decreases. See section 2.1.2.
- Gas customers with typical consumption (63,000Mj) can save \$770 \$980 per annum (depending on their gas zone) if switching from the worst standing offer to the best market offer.⁴ See section 2.2.
- I The price-spread for gas market offers ranges from \$350 per annum (Tru West/Ausnet West) to \$640 (Origin North/AGN North) for customers with typical consumption levels.⁵ See section 2.2.1.
- AGL and Origin are the gas retailers that have increased their prices the most since January 2021 while CovaU, Dodo and Sumo Power had the greatest price decreases.⁶ See section 2.2.2.

¹ Based on the worst of the retailers' standing offer (single rate) and the best of the published market offers (including additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

² Households using 4,800kWh per annum (single rate) and all market offer bills include additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Based on the worst of the retailers' standing offer and the best of the published market offers (*including* dual fuel offers, guaranteed discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

⁵ Households using 63,000Mj per annum. All published market offers (*including* dual fuel offers, Guaranteed discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

⁶ Bill calculations based on average electricity (4,800kWh) market offers including guaranteed discounts and pay on time discounts.

- New solar customers with a 3kW system installed will have an annual bill that is between \$680 and \$860 less (depending on network area) than non-solar customers with the same consumption level.⁷ The bill difference between solar and non-solar customers is less than it was in January 2021. See section 2.3.
- The maximum price-spread for solar customers is around \$445 in Ausnet, \$250 in Jemena, Powercor and Citipower and \$220 in United Energy.⁸ See section 2.3.
- 1 The regulated Network Use of System (NUOS) charge for households using 4,800 kWh is between \$400 and \$620 per annum. For market offers, the NUOS proportion varies significantly between retailers. On average (across all retailers' market offers), the NUOS proportion of the total bill is 40% in Ausnet, 33% in Powercor, 32% in Jemena, 31% in Citipower and 26% in United Energy.⁹ That is slightly higher proportions compared to the VDO. See section 3.1.
- For gas, the regulated Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charge for households using 63,000 MJ is between \$260 and \$415 per annum. It is lowest in the Ausnet West gas zone and highest in the AGN Central gas zone. The DUOS proportion of gas retail bills is currently between 14 and 22%.¹⁰ See section 3.2.
- I Dual fuel standing offer customers Kilmore, Seymour, Violet Town, Nagambie, Wangaratta, Chiltern and Wodonga have the highest average annual combined energy bills in this area, at approximately \$3,735, the highest of all Victoria.¹¹ See section 4.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Based on the worst and the best of the published market offers for single rate customers using 4,800 kWh per annum and a 3kW solar system installed. Bills include additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts and FIT, 3kW solar system.

⁹ Based on market offers inclusive of guaranteed and pay on time discounts, annual consumption of 4,800 kWh on the single rate tariff.

¹⁰ Based on the incumbent retailers's (AGL, Energy Australia and Origin) average gas standing offer as of September 2021. Presented as annual bills for households using 63,000 MJ per annum

¹¹ Ausnet's electricity distribution network and the AGN North/ Origin North gas zone.

1. Changes to the standing offers

The Victorian Government deregulated retail prices from 1 January 2009, and between January 2009 and July 2019 the retailers determined both their standing offer and market offer rates. In July 2019, the Victorian Default Offer (VDO) was introduced and all customers previously on a retailer's standing offer have been moved to the VDO. The VDO is a Victorian Government initiative that aims to make the electricity market simpler and more affordable for all consumers.¹² Under this arrangement the Essential Services Commission (ESC) is required to set a VDO for basic metering types (single rate and controlled load tariffs) in each network area.¹³ All retailers are required to offer the VDO but they can, and still do, offer other market contracts.

1.1 Electricity VDO and standing offers January 2019 – September 2021

As in the previous Tariff-Tracking reports, the bill calculations in this report have assumed an average consumption of 4,800kWh per annum for households on the single rate.¹⁴ These are generally households connected to mains gas and therefore have a lower consumption than allelectric households. For all-electric households, which are predominantly in rural areas, the bill calculations have assumed an average consumption of 7,000kWh per annum. The rates used in the calculations are those for the controlled load offers and a split of 70% peak and 30% off-peak has been assumed. There are five network businesses in Victoria: Powercor and Ausnet distributing electricity to rural and regional Victoria and Citipower, Jemena and United Energy.

On average, across all five network areas, the VDO increased by approximately \$65 (or 4%) in September 2021. However, if we compare September 2021 to January 2019 (when retailers still determined their own standing offers), there have been significant price reductions.

Charts 1 – 3 below show the incumbent retailers' electricity standing offer/VDO as of January 2019, July 2019, January 2020, July 2020 January 2021 and September 2021.

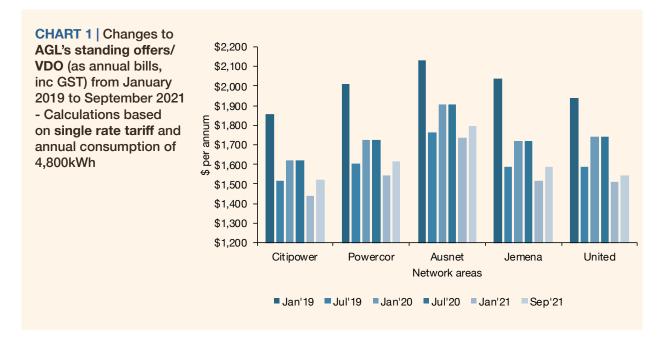
AGL is the incumbent retailer in the Jemena and United Energy networks. Between January 2021 and September 2021, customers on the VDO with an annual consumption of 4,800 kWh (single rate) have experienced an annual increase of \$70 (or 5%) in Jemena and \$35 (or 2%) in United Energy's area. In the Jemena network, the current VDO is 22% less than AGL's standing offer in January 2019 and in United Energy it is 20% less.

Chart 1 below shows the VDO as annual bills in January 2019, July 2019, January 2020, July 2020, January 2021 and September 2021.

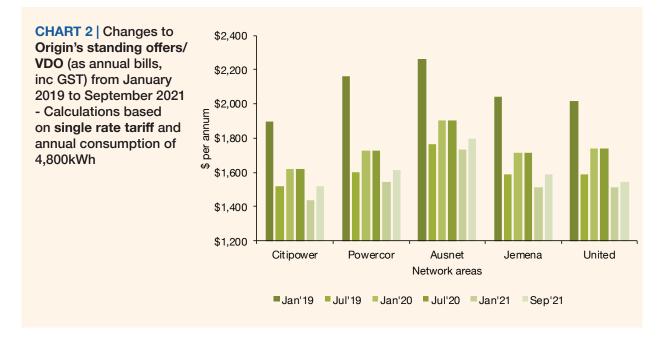
¹² See https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/victoriandefaultoffer

¹³ Until January 2020 the VDO only applied to single rate and controlled load tariffs. For customers on a two-rate (peak/off-peak) tariff, a time of use (TOU) tariff or a demand tariff, the retailers continued to set the standing offer price. From January 2020, however, retailers have been required to comply with the maximum annual bill amount set out in the Essential Services Commission's VDO determinations for all tariff types. The difference to retailers' annual bills for these meter types is now minimal.

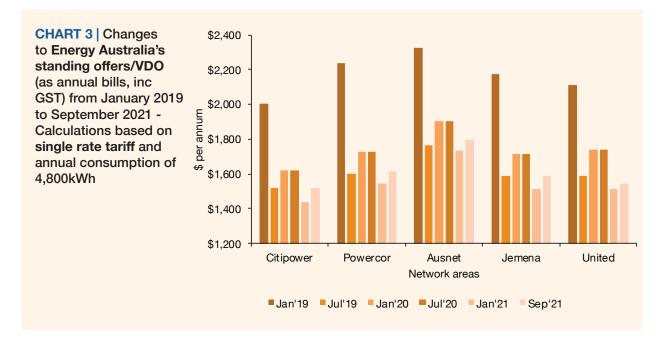
¹⁴ Consumption levels do vary between network areas, but we believe 4,800kWh and 7,000kWh per annum are appropriate benchmarks to analyse tariff changes and bill impacts for Victorian households.



Origin is the incumbent retailer in the Citipower and Powercor networks. Between January 2021 and September 2021, customers on the VDO with an annual consumption of 4,800 kWh (single rate) have experienced an annual increase of \$80 (or 6%) in Citipower and \$70 (or 5%) in Powercor's area. In the Citipower network, the current VDO is 20% less than Origin's standing offer in January 2019 and in Powercor it is 25% less.



Energy Australia is the incumbent retailer in the Ausnet network. Between January 2021 and September 2021, customers on the VDO with an annual consumption of 4,800 kWh (single rate) have experienced an annual increase of \$60 (or 4%) in Ausnet. The current VDO is 23% less than Energy Australia's standing offer in January 2019.

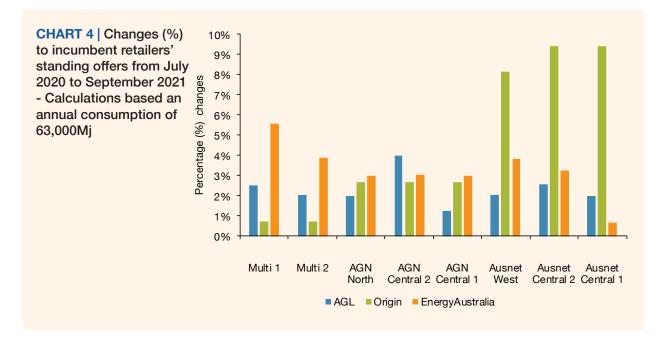


1.2 Gas standing offers July 2020 – September 2021¹⁵

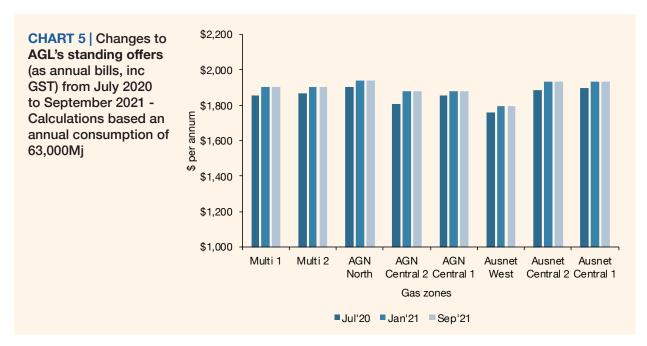
There are three gas distributors and eight main gas zones. The distributors are Multinet, Australian Gas Network (AGN)/Envestra and Ausnet. The gas zones are: Multinet 1/Origin Metro, Multinet 2/AGL South, AGN North/Origin North, AGN Central 2/TRU East, AGN Central 1/Origin South East, Ausnet West/TRU West, Ausnet Central 2/AGL North and Ausnet Central 1/TRU Central. The names of the gas zones derive from when AGL, Origin and TRU (now Energy Australia) were energy retailers with designated areas. These three retailers are not distribution businesses and they are not involved in setting the distribution charges in these areas. The companies' names are merely used as a descriptor for the various gas zones that Multinet, Australian Gas Network/ Envestra and Ausnet distribute gas to. There are also some smaller rural zones (such as Mildura) that are not included in the Tariff-Tracking tool.

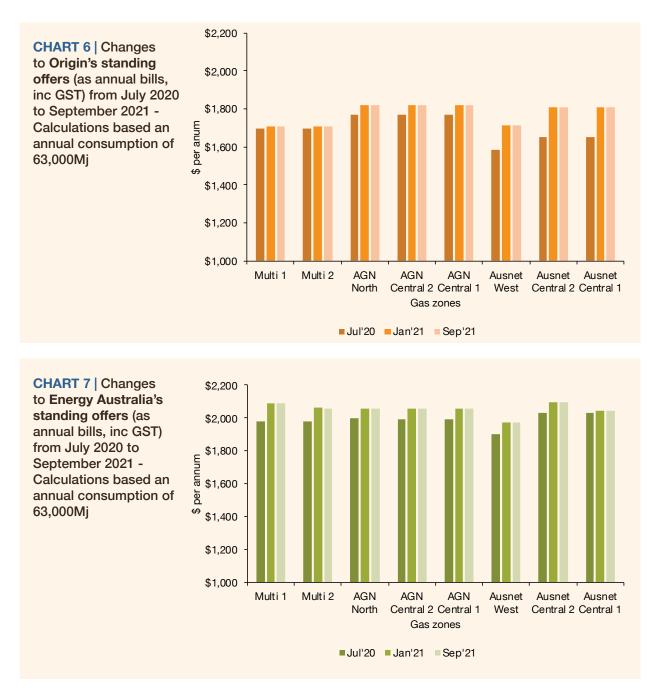
Gas standing offers increased in January 2021 and have remained unchanged since then. Chart 4 below shows that households experience price increases of between 2% to 5% (on average) in September 2021 when comparing to July 2020 prices. Origin's price increases are greatest in the Ausnet pricing zones while Energy Australia's price increases are greatest in the Multinet area.

¹⁵ While we usually collect and compare tariffs as of January and July every year, we are using September data for gas to keep it consistent with electricity. The electricity comparison has been shifted from July to September due to the new VDO taking effect on 1 September 2021.

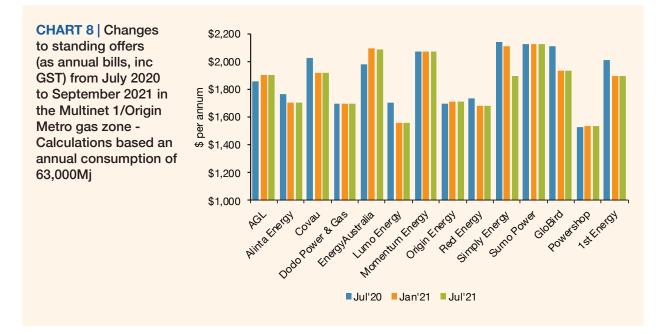


Charts 5 – 7 below show the incumbent retailers' gas standing offer as of July 2020, January 2021 and September 2021.





In contrast to the incumbent retailers, seven of the 2nd tier retailers have decreased their gas standing offers since July 2020. In the Multinet Metro (Multi 1) zone, Simply Energy has the largest decrease, with an 11.6% reduction to the gas standing offer. Chart 8 below compares annual bills as of July 2020, January 2021 and September 2021 for 14 retailers in the Multinet 1/ Origin metro gas zone.



2. Market offers

2.1 Electricity market offers post July 2021¹⁶

The price-spread, or the difference between the best market offer and the VDO (as well as the differences between market offers), will change somewhat throughout the year but as of September 2021:

- 1 Typical consumption households (4,800kWh per annum) on the VDO can save around \$385 and \$435 per annum if switching to the best published market offer (depending on their network area).¹⁷ This potential saving is somewhat larger compared to last year (July 2020), when the maximum saving was between \$365 - \$420 per annum. It is, however, significantly less compared to January 2019 (prior to the VDO taking effect), when the maximum saving was \$1,800-\$2,270 per annum, if switching from the worst standing offer to the best market offer.
- The greatest potential annual saving is in United Energy's network area (approximately \$435).¹⁸
- I The difference between the best and the worst market offers ranges from just over \$385 per annum (in United Energy's area) to \$435 (in Jemena's area) for customers with typical consumption levels.¹⁹

Table 1 shows additional discounts applicable to the electricity retailers' published market offer rates. Some of the retailers have multiple market offers and may offer higher (or lower) discounts than those listed here. However, if the discount is higher the length of the contract term is typically longer. In other cases, the discount might be higher, but the customer must agree to pay by direct debit.²⁰

Retailer	Name	Effective from	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Contract term/benefit period	Other conditions
1st Energy	1 st Saver Plus	16/8/21	23% off usage	No	No	Monthly billing only
AGL	Flexible Saver	1/9/21	No	No	No	No
Alinta Energy	Home Deal	7/8/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only
CovaU	Super Saver Plus	27/1/21	30% off usage	No	No	Monthly billing only
Diamond Energy	Renewable Saver	1/8/21	No	3% off bill	No	E-billing only

TABLE 1 | Electricity market offer features September 2021²¹

16 As the new regulated VDO took effect on 1 September 2021 and most of the retailers issued new market offers in response to these changes, all tariff data was collected in September 2021 instead of July (which is the usual collection point). Any reference to bills post July 2021 means the analysis is based on offers available as of September 2021.

17 Based on the worst of the retailers' standing offer (single rate) and the best of the published market offers (*including* additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Households using 4,800kWh per annum (single rate) and all market offer bills include additional discounts and/ or pay on time discounts.

²⁰ Diamond Energy, for example, has a direct debit discount where customers receive a 7% discount off their electricity bill. This discount is not included in the bill calculations presented in this report.

²¹ Most retailers have more than one market offer product. The offers used for this analysis are those we deem ongoing, key products with as few conditions (i.e. direct debit, e-billing and exit fees) as possible. These market offers were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021.

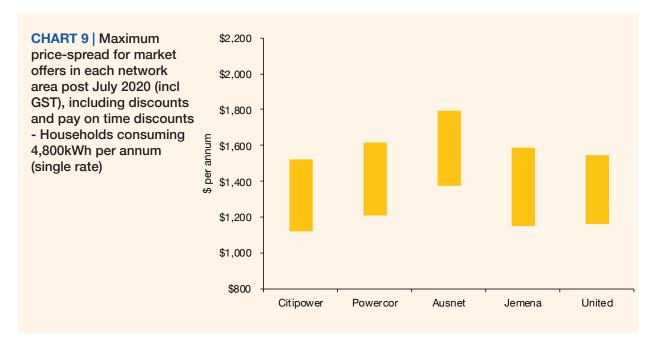
Retailer	Name	Effective from	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Contract term/benefit period	Other conditions
Dodo Power & Gas	Market offer	1/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only
EnergyAustralia	Total Plan Home	9/9/21	15% off bill	No	12 months	Fixed price for 12 months
GloBird Energy	GloSave	10/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only
Lumo Energy	Value	1/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only and price fixed until 31/12/22
Momentum Energy	SmilePower Flexi	1/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only
Origin Energy	Go Variable	1/7/21	No	No	12 months	No
Tango Energy	Home Select	1/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only and fixed price for 12 months
Powerdirect	Rate Saver	1/9/21	No	No	12 months	Fixed price for 12 months
Powershop	Carbon Neu- tral	1/7/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	1/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only
Simply Energy	Saver	1/9/21	11% off bill	No	No	Monthly billing only
Sumo Power	Assure	28/1/21	No	6% off bill	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Powerclub	Powerbank Home	1/8/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Amber Electric	Amber Plan	1/8/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Energy Locals	Online Mem- ber	25/8/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Kogan Energy	Market offer	1/7/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Ovo Energy	The One Plan	5/8/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
QEnergy	MiniMe	1/7/21	No	No	No	No
ReAmped Energy	Classic	8/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing and direct debit only
Discover Energy	Market Offer	1/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly e-billing only

2.1.1 Potential savings - Differences between electricity offers

Typical consumption households (4,800kWh per annum) on the VDO can save around \$385 and \$435 per annum if switching to the best published market offer (depending on their network area).²² This is slightly more compared to last year (July 2020). The difference between the worst and the best market offers is similar to what it was last year. Customers on the best market offer will pay approximately \$540 - \$610 less per annum compared to customers on the worst market offer.

²² Based on market offer bills that include guaranteed discounts and pay on time discounts.

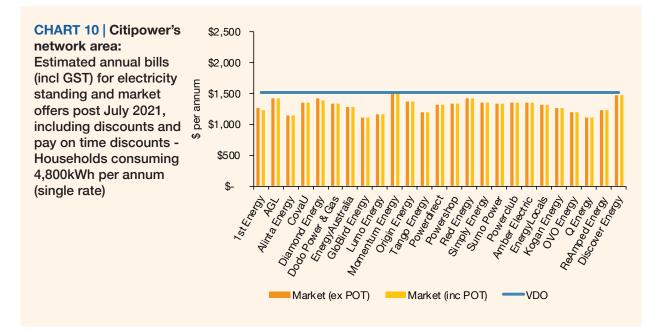
Chart 9 below shows the retail market offer price-spread within each of the five network areas.23



Charts 10 – 14 below show annual retail bills for typical consumption (4,800kWh per annum, single rate) for each of the five network areas. The red columns to the left represent market offers including guaranteed discounts (but not pay on time discounts), the orange columns are market offer bills including pay on time discounts while the blue line represents the VDO bill.²⁴

Citipower

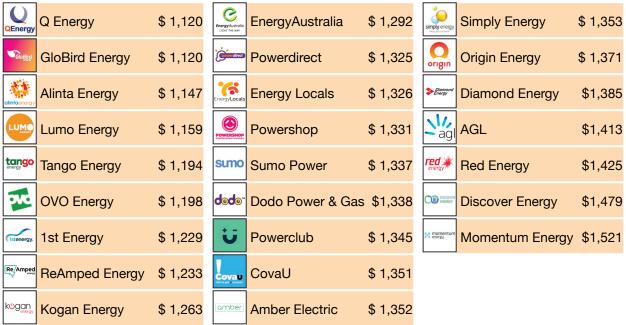
In Citipower's area, the average market offer post July 2021 is approximately \$1,305. A typical consumption household on the VDO can save around \$400 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Q Energy is the retailer that currently offers the best market offer rates in this area.

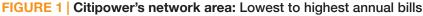


²³ Households using 4,800kWh per annum (single rate) and all market offer bills include guaranteed discounts and/ or pay on time discounts.

24 Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in table 1.

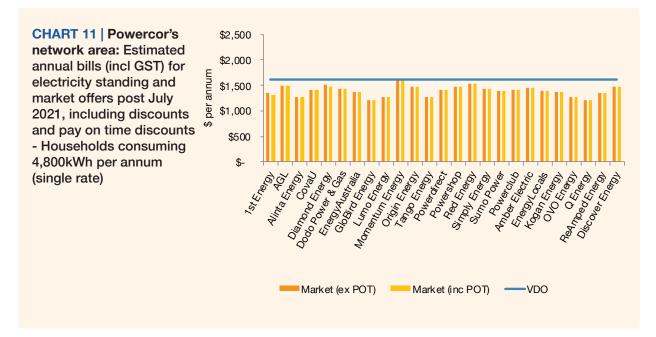
The difference between the best and the worst market offer is the same as the difference between the VDO and the best market offer. Q Energy's offer is approximately \$400 less than Momentum's market offer post discounts (and pay on time discounts) for households with this consumption level. Figure 1 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts in Citipower's network area.²⁵





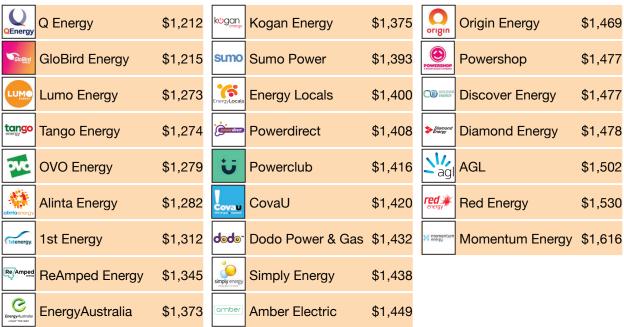
Powercor

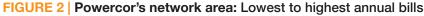
In Powercor's network area, the average market offer post July 2020 is approximately \$1,395. A typical consumption household on the VDO can save around \$405 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Q Energy is the retailer that currently offers the best market offer rates in this area.



²⁵ Bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 4,800kWh per annum (single rate). These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.

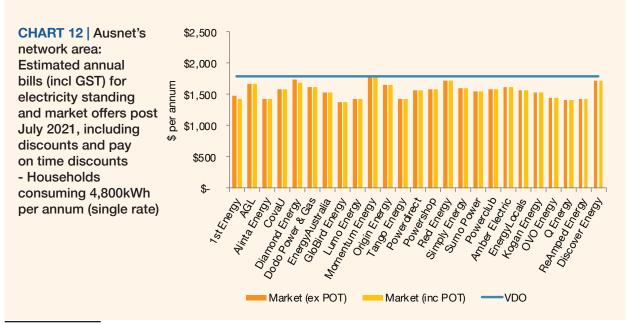
The difference between the best and the worst market offer is the same as the difference between the VDO and the best market offer. Q Energy's offer is approximately \$405 less than Momentum's market offer post discounts (and pay on time discounts) for households with this consumption level. Figure 2 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts in Powercor's network area.²⁶





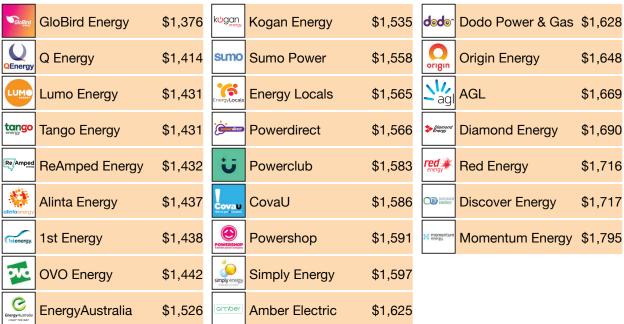
Ausnet

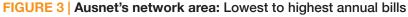
In Ausnet's network area, the average market offer post July 2021 is approximately \$1,560. A typical consumption household on the VDO can save around \$420 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. GloBird is the retailer that currently offers the best market offer rates in this area.



26 Bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 4,800kWh per annum (single rate). These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.

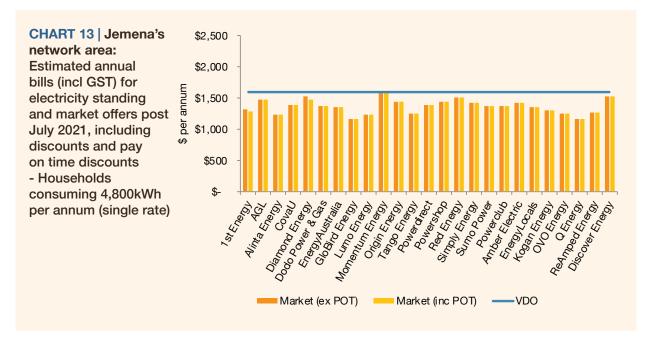
As in other network areas, the difference between the best and the worst market offers is the same as the difference between the VDO and the best market offer. GloBird's offer is approximately \$420 less per annum than Momentum's market offer post discounts for households with this consumption level. Figure 3 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts in Ausnet's network area.²⁷





Jemena

In Jemena's network area, the average market offer post July 2021 is approximately \$1,355. A typical consumption household on the VDO can save around \$435 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Q Energy is the retailer that currently offers the best market offer rates in this area.



²⁷ Bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 4,800kWh per annum (single rate). These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.

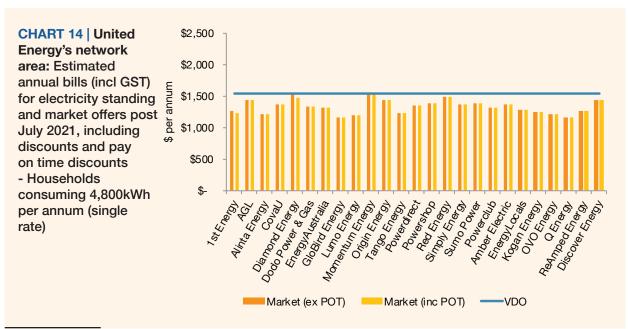
The difference between the best and the worst market offer is the same as the difference between the VDO and the best market offer. Q Energy's offer is \$435 less than Momentum's market offer post discounts (and pay on time discounts) for households with this consumption level. Figure 4 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts in Jemena's network area.²⁸



FIGURE 4 | Jemena's network area: Lowest to highest annual bills

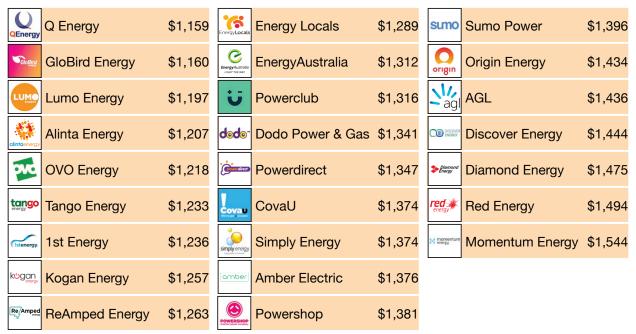
United Energy

In United Energy's network area, the average market offer post July 2021 is approximately \$1,330. A typical consumption household on the VDO can save around \$385 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Q Energy is the retailer that currently offers the best market offer rates in this area.



28 Bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 4,800kWh per annum (single rate). These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.

As in other network areas, the difference between the best and the worst market offer is the same as the difference between the VDO and the best market offer. Q Energy's offer is approximately \$385 less per annum than Momentum's market offer post discounts for households with this consumption level. Figure 5 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts in United Energy's network area.²⁹



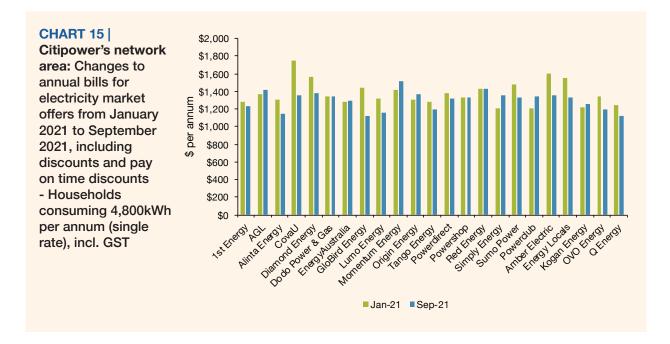


2.1.2 Changes to electricity market offers

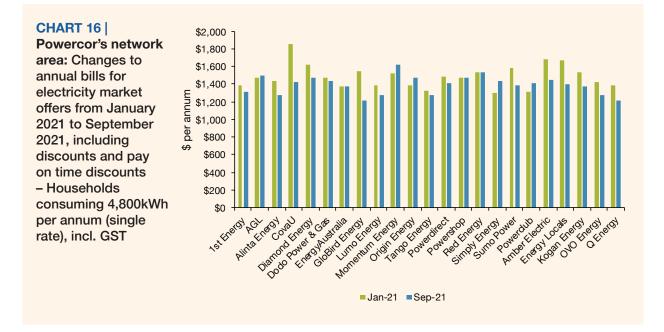
While all retailers have changed their market offers in since January 2021, some decreased their rates while others increased. Simply Energy, Powerclub and Momentum are the retailers with the greatest price increases while CovaU, GloBird and Energy Locals had the greatest price decreases. Charts 15 – 19 below show retailers market offers (as annual bills) as of January 2021 and September 2021, for each network area.

For the majority of retailers (15 out of 23) with market offers in Citipower's network area, prices decreased between January and September 2021. Simply Energy and Powerclub have the highest increases, both with increases around 11%. CovaU and GloBird have the biggest decreases, both with decreases around 22%.

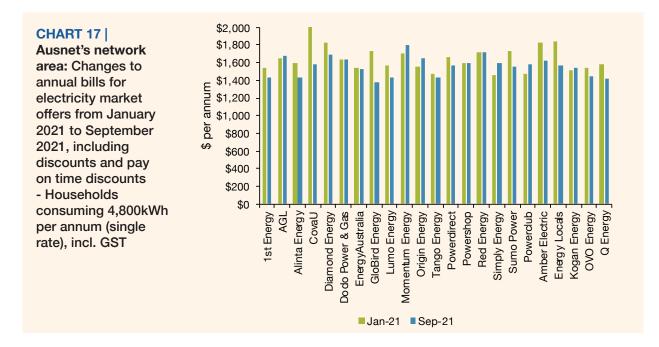
²⁹ Bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 4,800kWh per annum (single rate). These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2020 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.



For the majority of retailers (17 out of 23) with market offers in Powercor's network area, prices decreased between January and September 2021. Simply Energy has the highest increase (11%). CovaU and GloBird have the greatest decreases, with a 24% and 21% decrease, respectively.



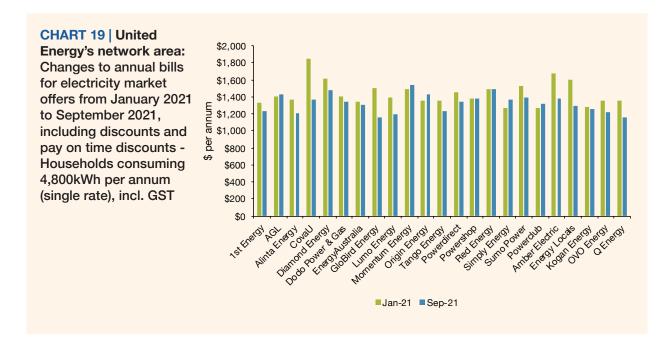
In Ausnet's network area, the majority of retail offers (15 out of 23) also decreased between January and September 2021. Simply Energy has the highest increase, with a 10% increase. CovaU and GloBird have the greatest decreases, with a 23% and 21% decrease, respectively.



For the majority of retailers (16 out of 23) with market offers in the Jemena network area, prices have decreased since January 2021. Simply Energy has the highest increase (11%) while CovaU and GloBird Energy have the greatest decreases, both around 24%.



For the majority of retailers (17 out of 23) with market offers in the United Energy network area, prices have decreased since January 2021. Again, Simply Energy has the highest increase (8%) while CovaU and GloBird have the greatest decreases, with a 25.5% and 23% decrease, respectively.



2.2 Gas market offers post July 2021³⁰

- Typical consumption households (63,000Mj) can save \$770 \$980 per annum (depending on their gas zone) if switching from the worst standing offer to the best market offer.³¹
- 1 The greatest potential savings are in the Origin South East/AGN Central 1 gas zone.³²
- I The difference between the best and the worst market offers ranges from \$350 per annum (Tru West/Ausnet West) to \$640 (Origin North/AGN North) for customers with typical consumption levels.³³

Chart 21 below shows the retail market offer price-spread within each of the eight main gas pricing zones.

³⁰ As the new regulated VDO for electricity took effect on 1 September 2021 and most of the retailers issued new market offers in response to these changes, all retail tariff data (electricity and gas) has been collected in September 2021 instead of July (which is the usual collection point). Any reference to bills post July 2021 means the analysis is based on offers available as of September 2021.

These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.

³¹ Based on the worst of the retailers' standing offer and the best of the published market offers (including additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

³² Ibid.

³³ Households using 63,000Mj per annum. All market offer bills include additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts.



As with electricity, additional discounts apply to the gas market offer rates. The majority of these discounts are now conditional on the customer paying the bill by the due date. Table 2 below shows additional discounts applicable to the gas retailers' published market offer rates.

Retailer	Name	Effective from	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Contract term/ benefit period	Other conditions
AGL	Flexible Sav- ers	1/7/21	No	No	No	No
Alinta Energy	Home Deal	10/5/21	No	No	No	No
Covau	Super Saver Plus	27/1/21	20% off usage	No	No	Monthly billing only
Dodo Power & Gas	Market offer	19/4/21	No	No	No	No
EnergyAustralia	Total Plan	9/9/21	26% off bill	No	12 months	Price fixed for 12 months
Lumo Energy	Value	1/7/21	No	No	No	Price fixed until 31/12/22
Momentum Energy	Market offer	1/4/21	No	No	No	No
Origin Energy	Go	3/5/21	No	No	12 months	Price fixed for 12 months
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	1/1/21	No	No	No	No
Simply Energy	Saver	1/9/21	16% off bill	No	No	No
Sumo Power	Assure	24/8/20	No	5% off bill	12 months	Direct debit only
GloBird Energy	GloSave	3/9/21	No	No	No	Monthly billing only

TABLE 2	Gas market offer features September 2021 ³⁴

34 Most retailers have more than one market offer product. The offers used for this analysis are those we deem ongoing, key products with as few conditions (i.e. direct debit, e-billing and exit fees) as possible. These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time

Retailer	Name	Effective from	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Contract term/ benefit period	Other conditions
Powershop	Market offer	1/2/21	No	No	No	Direct debit only
1 st Energy	1 st Saver Plus	1/1/21	12% off usage	3% off usage	No	Monthly billing only
Kogan Energy	Market offer	1/2/21	No	No	No	Direct debit only
Tango Energy	Home Select	13/9/21	No	No	No	Price fixed for 12 months

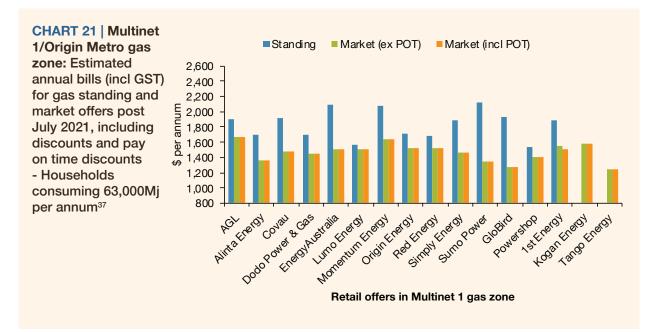
2.2.1 Potential savings - Differences between gas offers

Typical consumption households (63,000Mj per annum) on the worst standing offer can save \$770 - \$980 per annum if switching to the best published market offer (depending on their gas zone).

Charts 21 - 28 below show annual retail bills for typical consumption (63,000Mj per annum) for each of the eight main gas zones. The blue columns to the left represent the standing offer bill, the red columns are the market offers including guaranteed discounts (but not pay on time discounts) while the green columns are market offer bills including pay on time discounts.35 Figures 6 – 13 below rank gas market offers according to size of annual bill and it shows that Tango Energy's offers produce the lowest bills in all gas zones.36

Multinet 1/Origin Metro Gas Zone

In the Multinet 1 gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$885 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.



³⁵ Based on market offer bills that include discounts and pay on time discounts.

³⁶ As a retailer with good value gas rates can have expensive electricity rates (and vice versa), we seek to focus on retail offers available to customers independently from other products.

³⁷ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

Figure 6 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the Multinet 1 gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (AGL) is \$425 per annum.

FIGURE 6 | Multinet 1/Origin Metro gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum³⁸

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,239	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,462	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,523
GloBird	GloBird Energy	\$1,279	Covau	Covau	\$1,481	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,584
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,352	EnergyLocals	EnergyAustralia	\$1,500	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,633
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,367	1stenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,501		AGL	\$1,665
POWERSHOP Abster gauge company	Powershop	\$1,409	LUMO	Lumo Energy	\$1,510			
dodo-	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,455	red	Red Energy	\$1,517			

Multinet 2/AGL South Gas Zone

In the Multinet 2 gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$865 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.

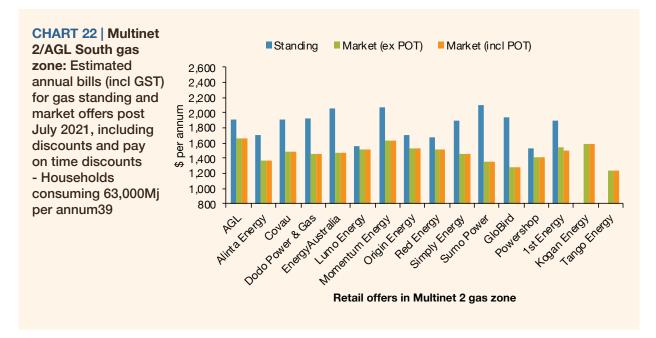


Figure 7 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the Multinet 2 gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (AGL) is \$425 per annum.

³⁸ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021.

³⁹ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 7 | Multinet 2/AGL South gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁴⁰

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,239	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,462	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,523
GioBird	GloBird Energy	\$1,279	EnergyLocals	EnergyAustralia	\$1,476	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,584
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,353	Covau	Covau	\$1,481	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,633
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,367	1stenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,501	N agl	AGL	\$1,665
POWERSHOP Address Company	Powershop	\$1,409		Lumo Energy	\$1,510			
dodo	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,455	red 💥	Red Energy	\$1,517			

AGN North/Origin North Gas Zone

In the AGN North gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$775 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Momentum is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.

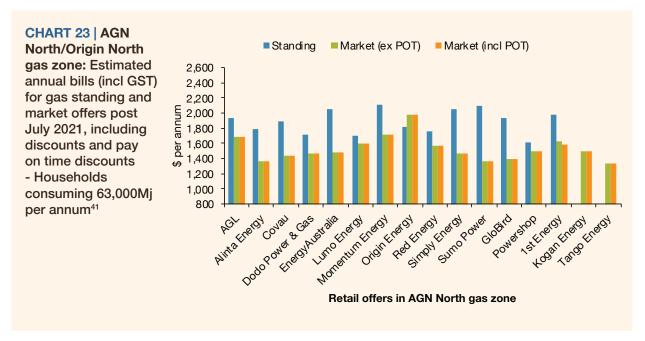


Figure 8 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the AGN North gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (Origin Energy) is \$640 per annum.

⁴⁰ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021.

⁴¹ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 8 | AGN North/Origin North gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁴²

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,329	dodo.	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,464	LUMC	Lumo Energy	\$1,592
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,361	С ЕлегдуАиstrafia иснт тне иму	EnergyAustralia	\$1,474	N agl	AGL	\$1,688
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,362	POWERSHOP Abstar power deepary	Powershop	\$1,489	energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,708
GloBird	GloBird Energy	\$1,396	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,499	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,970
Covau	Covau	\$1,432	red 💥	Red Energy	\$1,575			
simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,460	Istenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,578			

AGN Central 2/Tru East Gas Zone

In the AGN Central 2 gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$950 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.

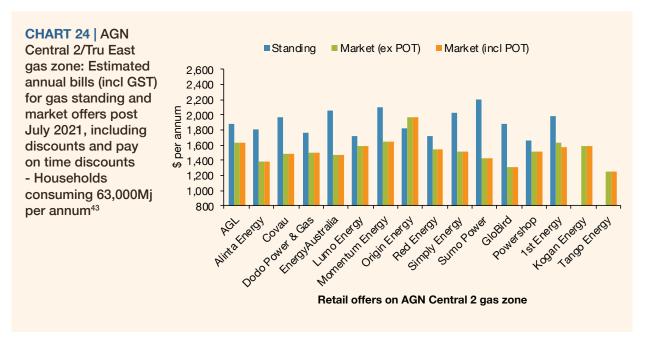


Figure 9 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the AGN Central 2 gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (Origin Energy) is approximately \$720 per annum.

⁴² These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021.

⁴³ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 9 | AGN Central 2/Tru East gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁴⁴

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,252	dodo	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,500	LUMC	Lumo Energy	\$1,593
GioBird	GloBird Energy	\$1,304	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,508		AGL	\$1,635
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,383	POWERSHOP Abetter power company	Powershop	\$1,520	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,645
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,423	red 💥	Red Energy	\$1,544	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,970
EnergyAustralia LIGHT THE WAY	EnergyAustralia	\$1,472	1stenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,578			
Covau	Covau	\$1,481	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,593			

AGN Central 1/Origin South East Gas Zone

In the AGN Central 1 gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$975 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.



Figure 10 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the AGN Central 1 gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (Origin Energy) is \$720 per annum.

⁴⁴ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time.

⁴⁵ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 10 | AGN Central 1/Origin South East gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁴⁶

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,252	dodo.	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,500	LUMC	Lumo Energy	\$1,593
GloBind	GloBird Energy	\$1,304	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,508	N agl	AGL	\$1,635
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,383	POWERSHOP Abetter power company	Powershop	\$1,520	energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,645
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,395	red	Red Energy	\$1,544	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,970
EnergyAustralia LIGHT THE WAY	EnergyAustralia	\$1,472	Istenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,578			
Covau	Covau	\$1,481	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,593			

Ausnet West/Tru West Gas Zone

In the Ausnet West gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save \$770 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.



Figure 11 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the Ausnet West gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (AGL) is approximately \$350 per annum

⁴⁶ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time.

⁴⁷ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 11 | Ausnet West/Tru West gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁴⁸

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,208	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,354	LUM	Lumo Energy	\$1,509
Covau	Covau	\$1,251	POWERSHOP Abetter power company	Powershop	\$1,355	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,518
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,283	EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$1,417	💽 momentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,528
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,287	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,447	red 💥	Red Energy	\$1,554
GloBird	GloBird Energy	\$1,323	1stenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,476	N agl	AGL	\$1,559

Ausnet Central 2/AGL North Gas Zone

In the Ausnet Central 2 gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$880 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.

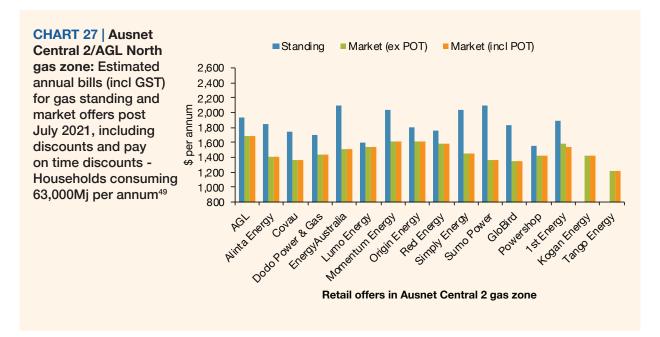


Figure 12 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the Ausnet Central 2. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (AGL) is approximately \$465 per annum.

⁴⁸ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time.

⁴⁹ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 12 | Ausnet Central 2/AGL North gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁵⁰

tango	Tango Energy	\$1,216	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,429	red	Red Energy	\$1,577
GloBird	GloBird Energy	\$1,352	dodo	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,433	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,616
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,364	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,447	tenergy	Momentum Energy	\$1,616
Covau	Covau	\$1,364	EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$1,504		AGL	\$1,682
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,411	1stenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,533			
POWERSHOP	Powershop	\$1,422	LUMO	Lumo Energy	\$1,539			

Ausnet Central 1/Tru Central Gas Zone

In the Ausnet Central 1 gas zone, average consumption households on the worst standing offer can save approximately \$890 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Again, Sumo Power is the retailer with the worst standing offer and Tango Energy's market offer produces the lowest bill.

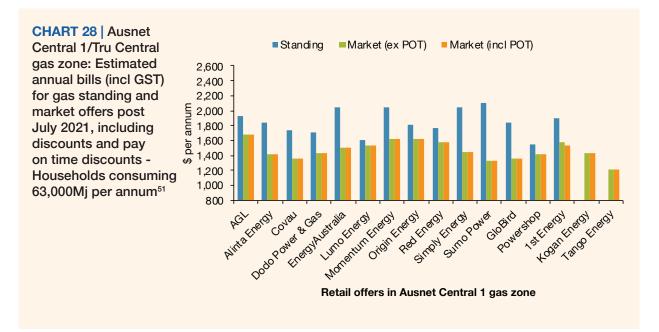


Figure 13 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the Ausnet Central 1 gas zone. The difference between the best (Tango Energy) and the worst (AGL) is approximately \$465 per annum.

⁵⁰ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time.

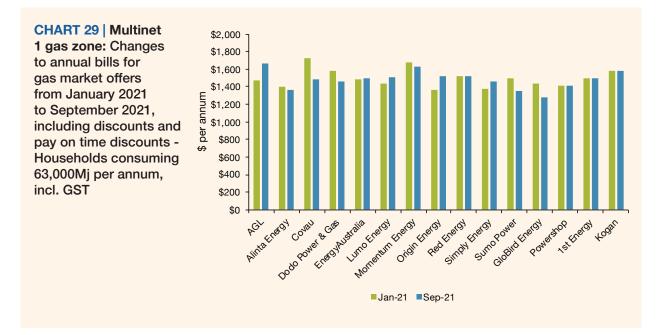
⁵¹ Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in the table 2.

FIGURE 13 | Ausnet Central 1/Tru Central gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum⁵²

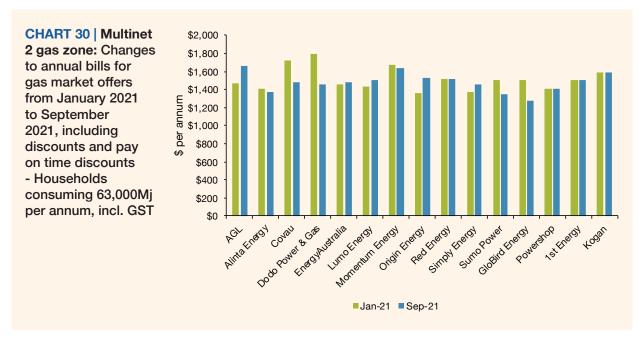
tango	Tango Energy	\$1,216	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$1,429	red 💥	Red Energy	\$1,577
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,334	dodo.	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,433	origin	Origin Energy	\$1,616
GIOBIT	GloBird Energy	\$1,352	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$1,447	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$1,616
Covau	Covau	\$1,364	EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$1,509	N agl	AGL	\$1,682
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$1,411	Istenergy.	1st Energy	\$1,533			
POWERSHOP	Powershop	\$1,422	LUM	Lumo Energy	\$1,539			

2.2.2 Changes to gas market offers

While some retailers did not change their gas market offers post July 2021, some decreased their rates while others increased theirs. In the Multinet gas zones, AGL and Origin are the retailers with the greatest price increases while CovaU, GloBird, Dodo and Sumo Power had the greatest price decreases. Charts 29 – 30 below show retailers market offers (as annual bills) as of January 2021 and September 2021 in the Multinet gas zones.



⁵² These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time.



In the AGN gas zones, AGL and Origin are the retailers with the greatest price increases while CovaU, Dodo and Sumo Power had the greatest price decreases. Charts 31 – 33 below show retailers market offers (as annual bills) as of January 2021 and September 2021 in the AGN gas zones.



CHART 32 | AGN Central 2 gas zone: Changes to annual bills for gas market offers from January 2021 to September 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum, incl. GST

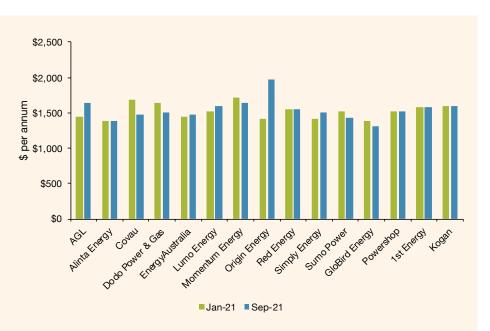
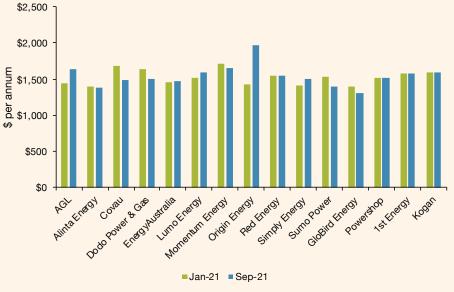


CHART 33 | AGN Central 1 gas zone: Changes to annual bills for gas market offers from January 2021 to September 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum, incl. GST



In the Ausnet gas zones, AGL and Origin are again the retailers with the greatest price increases while CovaU, Dodo and Sumo Power had the greatest price decreases. Charts 34 – 36 below show retailers market offers (as annual bills) as of January 2021 and September 2021 in the Ausnet gas zones.

CHART 34 | Ausnet West gas zone: Changes to annual bills for gas market offers from January 2021 to September 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts -Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum, incl. GST

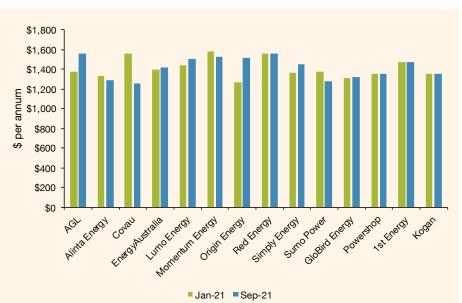


CHART 35 | Ausnet Central 2 gas zone: Changes to annual bills for gas market offers from January 2021 to September 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts -Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum, incl. GST

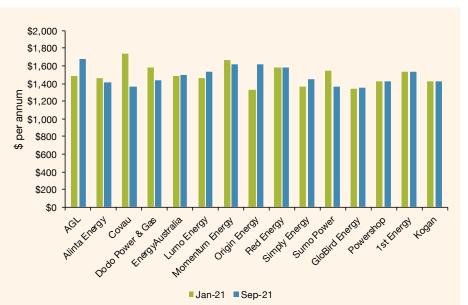
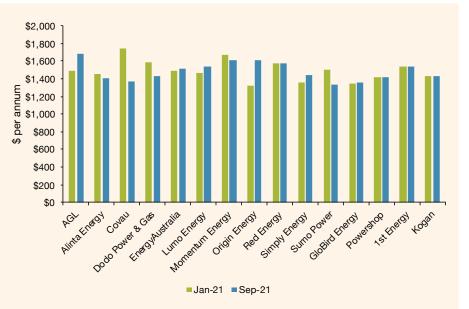


CHART 36 | Ausnet Central 1 gas zone: Changes to annual bills for gas market offers from January 2021 to September 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts -Households consuming 63,000Mj per annum, incl. GST



2.3 Solar market offers post July 2021⁵³

- I The maximum price-spread is around \$445 in Ausnet, \$250 in Jemena, Powercor and Citipower and \$220 in United Energy.⁵⁴
- I Depending on network area, Melbourne solar customers with a 3kW system installed would on average pay between \$680 and \$715 less per annum compared to non-solar households (in January 2021 this difference was \$740 and \$810).⁵⁵
- Non-metropolitan households would on average pay between \$765 and \$860 less per annum compared to non-solar households (in January 2021 this difference was \$850 and \$940).⁵⁶

There are approximately 517,000 small to medium scale solar systems in Victoria.⁵⁷ Many of these solar customers are currently receiving a solar feed in rate (FIT) of 60 cents (the premium FIT scheme) but as this scheme is closed to new entrants, customers currently looking for solar offers need to assess both the retailers' FIT rates as well as the cost of electricity imported.⁵⁸

This section analyses and compares market offer bills for Victorian customers with 1.5 kW and 3 kW systems installed. As retailers are not required to publish rates for solar products purchased and installed through them, this analysis only examines electricity offers available to customers independently of solar panels and installation.⁵⁹

Methodology and assumptions

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

- An annual household consumption of 4,800kWh (including both produced and imported).
- Calculations have been produced for households with 1.5 kW and 3 kW systems only.
- For Melbourne households, an annual generation capacity per kW installed of 1.539 MWh and an export rate of 47.4% for 3 kW systems and 14.9% for 1.5 kW systems.⁶⁰
- For non-metropolitan households, an annual generation capacity per kW installed of 1.789 MWh and an export rate of 54.8% for 3 kW systems and 26.8% for 1.5 kW systems.⁶¹
- Only FIT rates available to new customers have been included. Retailer funded FIT rates have been applied as per offer (see table 3 below).
- A flat annual consumption has been assumed.
- The annual bills have been based on quarterly bill calculations and all step increases have been applied as quarterly thresholds (including when the retail offer refers to daily

⁵³ As the new regulated VDO for electricity took effect on 1 September 2021 and most of the retailers issued new market offers in response to these changes, all retail tariff data (electricity and gas) has been collected in September 2021 instead of July (which is the usual collection point). Any reference to bills post July 2021 means the analysis is based on offers available as of September 2021.

These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021 and it must be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included in these bill calculations.

⁵⁴ Based on the worst and the best of the published market offers for single rate customers using 4,800 kWh per annum and a 3kW solar system installed. Bills include additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts and FIT, 3kW solar system.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Small scale is defined as systems up to 100 kW. Clean Energy Council, Clean Energy Australia Report 2021, 74 58 Approximately 88,000 households, small businesses and community groups are on the PFIT scheme and the 60 cents rate is set to last until 2024 see <u>http://delwp.vic.gov.au/energy/electricity/victorian-feed-in-tariff/closed-feed-in-tariff</u>

⁵⁹ 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.

⁶⁰ These figures are based analysis presented in a report for the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) by Alviss Consulting (Alviss Consulting, *Retail Offers and Market Transparency for New Solar Customers*, June 2013).
61 Ibid

or monthly thresholds). Daily fixed charges have been multiplied by 91 to calculate the quarterly amount.

Retailer*	Offer	FIT rate (c/kWh)
Dodo Power & Gas	Market offer	12
1st Energy	Solar Bonus	11.7
EnergyAustralia	Total Plan Home	10.2
Sumo Power	Assure	10.2
CovaU	Super Saver Plus Solar	10.2
Momentum Energy	Solar Step Up	10
Origin Energy	Solar Boost	10
Lumo Energy	Value	8
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	8
OVO Energy	The One Plan	8
ReAmped Energy	Classic	7.1
Diamond Energy	Renewable Saver POT	7
Energy Locals	Online Member	7
AGL	Flexible Saver	6.7
Alinta Energy	Home Deal	6.7
GloBird Energy	GloSave	6.7
Tango Energy	Home Select	6.7
Powerdirect	Rate Saver	6.7
Powershop	Carbon Neutral	6.7
Simply Energy	Saver	6.7
Powerclub	Powerbank Home	6.7
Amber Electric	Amber Plan	6.7
Kogan Energy	Market offer	6.7
Q Energy	MiniMe	6.7
Discover Energy	Market offer	6.7

Chart 37 below compares annual retail bills for solar customers in Melbourne (Citipower) with 3 kW and 1.5 kW installed. It shows that for this consumption level, the average market offer bill for households in this area with a 3kW system installed is \$625 and that is \$680 less than the average market offer bill for non-solar customers (see section 2.1.1 above). Households with a 1.5 kW system installed will typically have an annual bill of \$885.

Melbourne (Citipower) solar customers with 3 kW systems (and this consumption level) would be approximately \$250 per annum better off on QEnergy's offer compared to Discover Energy's.

Chart 37 also shows that 1st Energy, Sumo, CovaU, Origin and Momentum's offers produce annual bills that are above the average for 1.5 kW systems despite having some of the highest FIT rates (1st Energy offers 11.7 cents, Sumo and CovaU offer 10.2 cents and Origin and Momentum offer 10 cents). This highlights the importance of solar customers not choosing retail offers based on FIT rates alone.

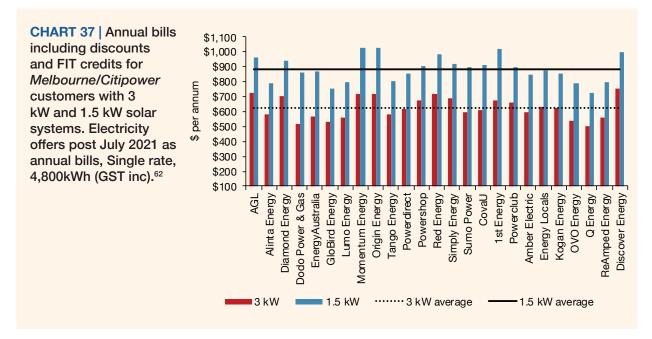


Chart 38 below shows annual bills for Melbourne solar customers in the Jemena network. It shows that for this consumption level, the average market offer bill for households in this area with a 3kW system installed is \$640 and that is \$715 less than the average market offer bill for non-solar customers (see section 2.1.1 above). Households with a 1.5 kW system installed will have an annual bill of \$905.

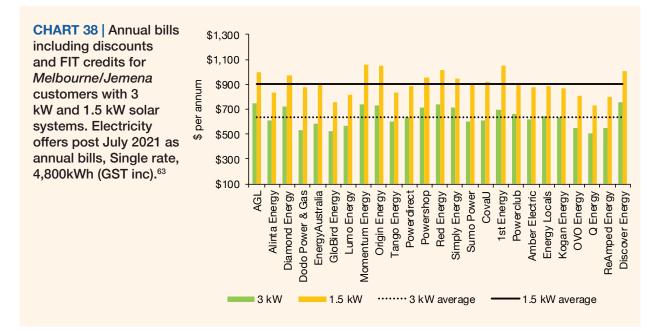
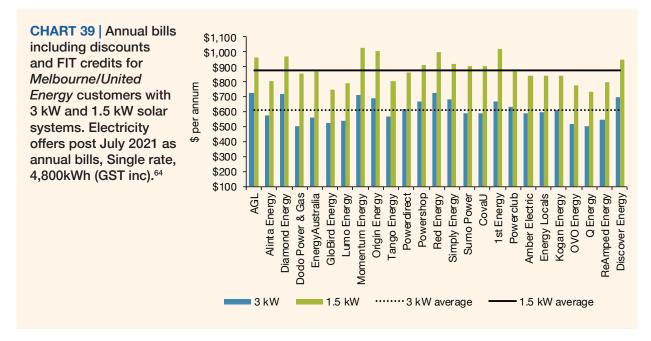
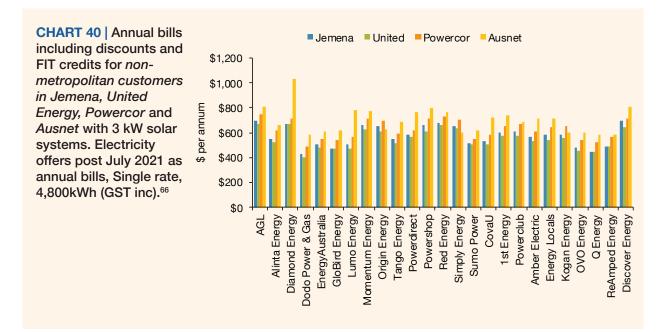


Chart 39 below shows annual bills for Melbourne solar customers in the United Energy network. It shows that for this consumption level, the average market offer bill for households in this area with a 3kW system installed is \$615 and that is \$715 less than the average market offer bill for non-solar customers (see section 2.1.1 above). Households with a 1.5 kW system installed will have an annual bill of \$880.

⁶² Calculations include discounts off usage or bill as well as pay on time discounts off usage or bill.63 Ibid.



Homes outside Melbourne's metropolitan area will typically have less overshadowing and therefore a higher generation capacity and export rate. Chart 01 compares annual retail bills for non-metropolitan solar customers with 3 kW systems in four network areas (Jemena, United, Powercor and Ausnet). It shows that the average annual bill for non-metropolitan solar customers with this consumption level is approximately \$575 in Jemena, \$550 in United, \$630 in Powercor and \$700 in Ausnet.⁶⁵ The average annual bill is \$765 to \$860 lower than the annual bill for non-solar customers (see section 2.1.1 above for non-solar customers).



Figures 14 - 18 below show estimated annual bills for solar market offers including FIT and discounts for Melbourne customers in Citipower, Jemena and United Energy's networks and

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Note that the average bill in Ausnet is scewed by Diamond Energy's offer which does not offer a FIT to single rate customers.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

non-metropolitan customers in the Powercor and Ausnet networks (all based on 3 kW systems).⁶⁷ The maximum price-spread is around \$445 in Ausnet, \$250 in Jemena, Powercor and Citipower and \$220 in United Energy.

FIGURE 14 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2021 in the *Citipower* network

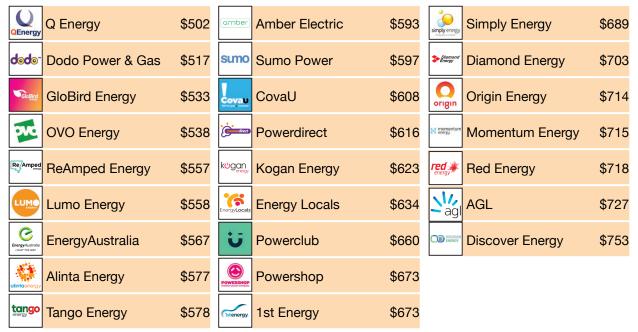


FIGURE 15 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2021 in the *Jemena* network

QEnergy	Q Energy	\$504		Alinta Energy	\$607	POWERSHOP Abstar power company	Powershop	\$712
GioBird	GloBird Energy	\$527	Covau	CovaU	<mark>\$613</mark>	Diamond Energy	Diamond Energy	\$725
dodo-	Dodo Power & Gas	\$530	amber	Amber Electric	<mark>\$618</mark>	origin	Origin Energy	\$730
240	OVO Energy	\$545	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$635	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$739
ReAmped	ReAmped Energy	\$548	(Construct)	Powerdirect	<mark>\$639</mark>	red 💥	Red Energy	\$742
LUMC	Lumo Energy	\$568	EnergyLocals	Energy Locals	<mark>\$643</mark>	N agi	AGL	\$750
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$587	Ü	Powerclub	\$660		Discover Energy	\$753
sumo	Sumo Power	\$599	Istenergy.	1st Energy	\$696			
tango	Tango Energy	\$604	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$711			

⁶⁷ These bill estimates are based on rates that were collected from the retailers' websites in mid-September 2021. Bill calculations include guaranteed discounts and pay on time discount but any additional discounts for customers choosing to pay by direct debit are not included. Annual consumption of 4,800kWh annum (including both produced and imported), single rate, and GST inclusive.

FIGURE 16 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2021 in the United Energy network

QEnergy	Q Energy	\$502	amber	Amber Electric	\$588	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$686
dodo	Dodo Power & Gas	\$503	sumo	Sumo Power	\$591	origin	Origin Energy	\$689
X	OVO Energy	\$520	Covau	CovaU	\$593	DISCOVER ENERGY	Discover Energy	\$697
GloBirg	GloBird Energy	\$523	EnergyLocals	Energy Locals	\$598	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$711
	Lumo Energy	\$536	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$609	Diamond Energy	Diamond Energy	\$722
Re Amped	ReAmped Energy	\$548	(Construct)	Powerdirect	\$617	V agl	AGL	\$724
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$563	U	Powerclub	\$631	red	Red Energy	\$724
tango	Tango Energy	\$569	Istenergy.	1st Energy	\$667			
alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$577	POWERSHOP Abetter power company	Powershop	\$667			

FIGURE 17 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2021 in the *Powercor* network

dede-	Dodo Power & Gas	\$491	tango	Tango Energy	\$596	simply energy	Simply Energy	\$703
QEnergy	Q Energy	\$526	amber	Amber Electric	\$612	💽 momentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$709
240	OVO Energy	\$539	alintaenergy	Alinta Energy	\$618	Diamond Energy	Diamond Energy	\$710
GloBing	GloBird Energy	\$542	direct	Powerdirect	\$620	DISCOVER ENERGY	Discover Energy	\$713
sumo	Sumo Power	\$545	EnergyLocals	Energy Locals	\$641	POWERSHOP Abetter power company	Powershop	\$714
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$548	1stenergy.	1st Energy	\$652	red 💥	Red Energy	\$733
ReAmped	ReAmped Energy	\$564	kugan	Kogan Energy	\$653	N agl	AGL	\$744
LUMO	Lumo Energy	\$568	U	Powerclub	\$668			
Covau	CovaU	\$585	origin	Origin Energy	\$698			

FIGURE 18 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2021 in the Ausnet network⁶⁸

ReAmped	ReAmped Energy	\$582	origin	Origin Energy	\$623	red	Red Energy	\$764
QEnergy	Q Energy	\$586		Alinta Energy	\$663	nomentum energy	Momentum Energy	\$770
dodo	Dodo Power & Gas	\$587	tango	Tango Energy	\$685		Lumo Energy	\$779
X	OVO Energy	\$597	Ü	Powerclub	\$686	POWERSHOP Abetter prover Compary	Powershop	\$796
kugan	Kogan Energy	\$597	amber	Amber Electric	\$709	N agl	AGL	\$808
simply energy	Simply Energy	\$602	EnergyLocals	Energy Locals	\$716		Discover Energy	\$809
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$607	Covau	CovaU	\$720	Diamond Energy	Diamond Energy	\$1,027
GloBird	GloBird Energy	\$614	Istenergy.	1st Energy	\$738			
sumo	Sumo Power	\$618	Cover direct	Powerdirect	\$762			

⁶⁸ Note that Diamond Energy does not offer FIT credits for single rate tariff offers in the Ausnet network (it does offer a FIT for two-rate and TOU tariffs)

3. Network charges

This section examines changes to electricity network charges since 2009 and gas distribution charges since 2020.

3.1 Electricity network charges

Electricity bills are made up of several components, including generation (wholesale market) costs, network costs (distribution and transmission), "green schemes" and costs associated with other public policy initiatives, and retail costs. The Victorian electricity networks introduce new Network Use of System (NUOS) charges as of 1 January every year. These NUOS charges comprise Transmission Use of System (TUOS) and Distribution Use of System (DUOS). Both the regulator and the retailers amend the retail tariffs to reflect these underlying changes to the NUOS.⁶⁹

Chart 41 below shows annual NUOS charges from 2008 to 2021 and that the maximum difference to the NUOS (for this consumption level) is currently around \$200 per annum compared to \$100 in 2008. In 2021, the NUOS decreased in all network areas. The greatest decrease was in the United Energy network (18%) and the smallest decrease was in Citipower (8%).

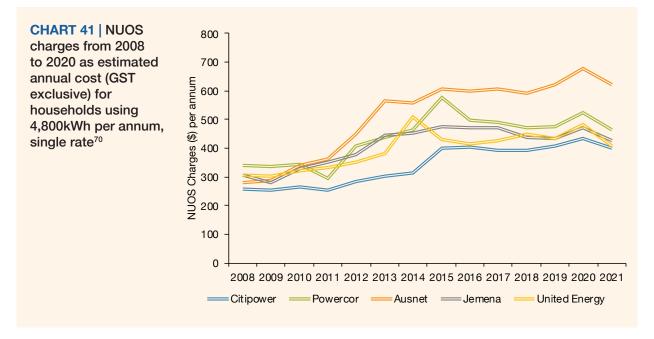
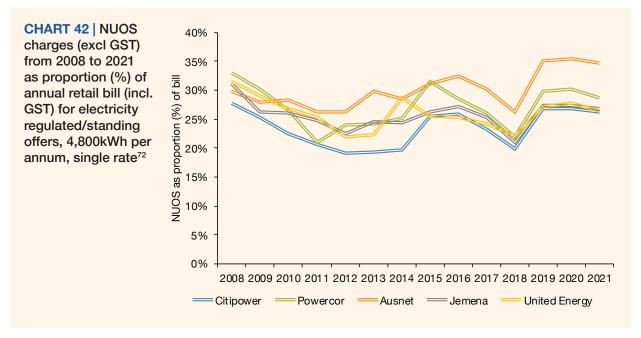


Chart 42 below looks at NUOS charges as a proportion of total bill. It is based on the incumbent retailers' standing offers as of July every year and the VDO from 2019 to 2021.71 It shows that the NUOS proportion of electricity bills increased significantly with the introduction of the VDO in July 2019 but decreased in all networks except Ausnet and Jemena from 2020 to 2021.

⁶⁹ Note that NUOS charges do not include smart metering costs.

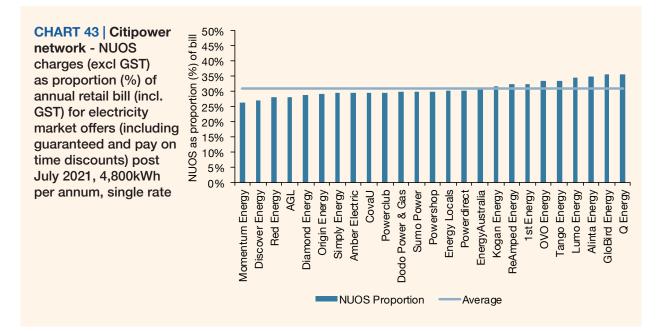
⁷⁰ The annual NUOS charges have been calculated by allocating 1,200kWh per quarter (again based on annual consumption of 4,800kWh) to the step charges stipulated in the NUOS. The annual NUOS cost also includes fixed charges. Note that as United Energy's NUOS charge was a seasonal tariff prior to 2020, the United Energy consumption used in these calculations is thus based on a proportional allocation of a 5 month summer tariff and a 7 month non-summer (off-peak) rate.

⁷¹ Note as the VDO changed on 1 September in 2021 (instead of 1 July) this year's VDO is as of September rather than July.



For market offers, the NUOS proportion varies significantly between retailers. On average (across all retailers' market offers), the NUOS proportion of the total bill is 40% in Ausnet, 33% in Powercor, 32% in Jemena, 31% in Citipower and 26% in United Energy.⁷³ That is slightly higher proportions compared to the VDO.

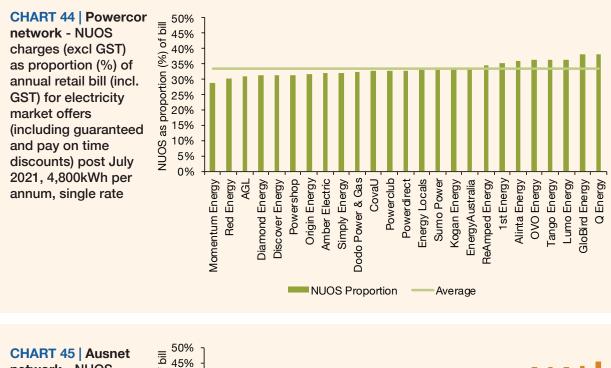
Charts 43 – 47 below show the NUOS proportion of bills for market offers post July 2021 in each of the five network areas.⁷⁴ It shows that bills from Momentum have the lowest NUOS proportion in four of the networks while GloBird's bill in the Ausnet network has the single highest NUOS proportion at 45%. See chart 45 below.



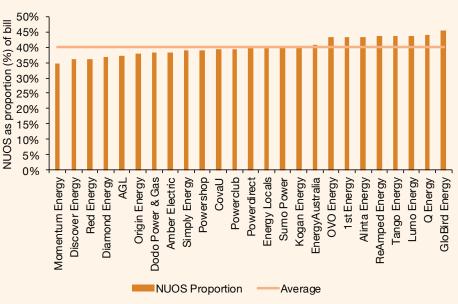
⁷² The standing offer bill is based on the average incumbent (AGL, Origin and Energy Australia) standing offer as of July every year (VDO since July 2019). Note that as United Energy's NUOS charge was a seasonal tariff prior to 2020, the United Energy consumption used in these calculations is thus based on a proportional allocation of a 5 month summer tariff and a 7 month non-summer (off-peak) rate.

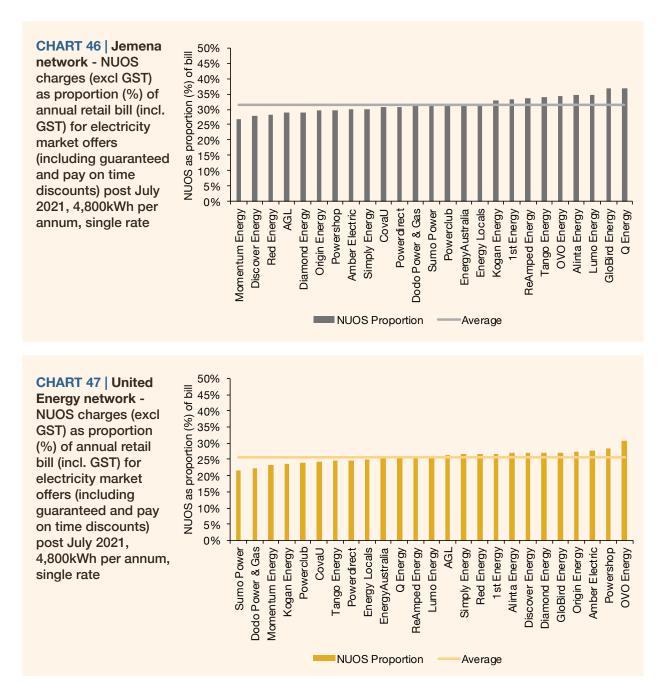
⁷³ Based on market offers inclusive of guaranteed and pay on time discounts, annual consumption of 4,800 kWh on the single rate tariff.

⁷⁴ To keep the timeline consistent with the VDO which changed on 1 September 2021, these market offers were collected in mid-September 2021.



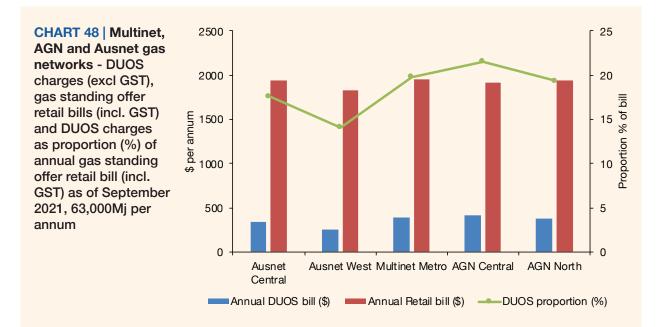
network - NUOS charges (excl GST) as proportion (%) of annual retail bill (incl. GST) for electricity market offers (including guaranteed and pay on time discounts) post July 2021, 4,800kWh per annum, single rate



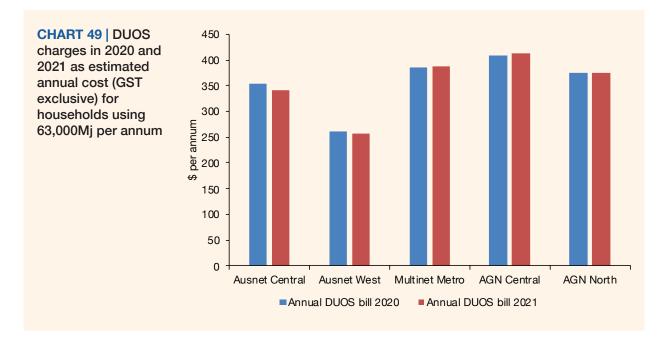


3.2 Gas network charges

As for electricity, the Victorian gas distributors (AGN, Ausnet and Multinet), introduce new Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charges as of 1 January every year. A recent addition to the Tariff-Tracking project has been to analyse changes to gas DUOS charges. The current DUOS charge for households using 63,000 Mj is between \$260 and \$415 per annum. It is lowest in the Ausnet West gas zone and highest in the AGN Central gas zone. The DUOS proportion of gas retail bills is currently between 14 and 22%.⁷⁵



Gas DUOS charges have remained mostly unchanged since 2020 except for in the Ausnet Central pricing zone where they decreased by 3.9%. Chart 49 below shows annual DUOS costs for each pricing zone in 2020 and 2021.



75 Based on the incumbent retailers's (AGL, Energy Australia and Origin) average gas standing offer as of September 2021. Presented as annual bills for households using 63,000 MJ per annum

4. Total cost of energy and price changes by area

As approximately 60% of Victorian households are connected to both electricity and gas, it is important to analyse whether there are areas that have experienced high increases in both electricity and gas prices, and conversely, whether there are areas where the increases in electricity and gas prices are at the lower end. Such analysis allows for a more detailed understanding of the total energy costs faced by households across Victoria.⁷⁶ While the VDO increased in September 2021 (see section 1.1), electricity standing offer bills are still lower compared to last year (July 2020). The incumbent retailers' gas standing offers, however, have increased by 2-5% (on average) across Victoria since July 2020.

Area		ill change uly 2020	Percenta	ge change
Inner city and Eastern suburbs (Citipower)	-\$1	100	-6	8%
Outer Western suburbs and Western Victoria (Powercor)	-\$110	-\$170*	-6%	-8%*
Outer Northern and Eastern suburbs and Eastern Victoria (SP Ausnet)	-\$110	-\$165*	-6%	-7%*
Inner West and Northern suburbs (Jemena)	-\$1	130	-8	3%
Outer South Eastern suburbs and Mornington Peninsula (United Energy)	-\$1	195	-1	1%

TABLE 6 | Electricity VDO/standing offer price changes (average) by area July 2020 to September 2021

* For all-electric households with peak/off-peak (controlled load) rates

TABLE 7 | Gas standing offer price changes (average) by area from July 2020 to September 2021

	· ·	
Area	Annual bill change since July 2020	Percentage change
Eastern and South Eastern suburbs (Multinet 1/Origin Metro zone)	\$55	3%
Bayside and outer South Eastern suburbs (Multinet 2/AGL South zone)	\$40	2%
Northern and North Eastern Victoria (AGN North/Origin North zone)	\$50	3%
CBD, inner city and North Eastern suburbs (AGN Central 2/TRU East zone)	\$60	3%
Frankston, Mornington Peninsula and Gippsland (AGN Central 1/Origin South East zone)	\$45	2%
Macedon Ranges, Bendigo, Ballarat and Western Victoria (Ausnet West/TRU West zone)	\$80	5%
Western and North Western suburbs (Ausnet Central 2/AGL North zone)	\$90	5%
Outer Western suburbs, Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula (Ausnet Central 1/TRU Central zone)	\$70	4%

⁷⁶ The figures in tables 6 - 9 are based on the incumbent retailers' average standing offer for electricity and gas customers for dual fuel households using 4800kWh and 63,000Mj per annum, and all-electric households using 7000kWh (thereof 30% off-peak). To calculate the increases we have used the average of the incumbent retailers' standing offer rates rather than the average of all standing offers. This was done because the vast majority of customers on the standing offer are with the incumbents (AGL, Origin and Energy Australia). Furthermore, as discussed above, market offers do generally reflect the increases to the standing offers.

TABLE 8 | Average annual electricity bill by area. Based on VDO/standing offers September 2021

Area	Avg. ar	nnual bill	
Inner city and Eastern suburbs (Citipower)	\$1	,520	
Outer Western suburbs and Western Victoria (Powercor)	\$1,615	\$2,005*	
Outer Northern and Eastern suburbs and Eastern Victoria (SP Ausnet)	\$1,795	\$2,240*	
Inner West and Northern suburbs (Jemena)	\$1	,585	
Outer South Eastern suburbs and Mornington Peninsula (United Energy)	nergy) \$1,545		

* For all-electric households with peak/off-peak (controlled load) rates

TABLE 9 | Average annual gas bill by area. Based on standing offers September 2021

Area	Avg. annual bill
Eastern and South Eastern suburbs (Multinet 1/Origin Metro zone)	\$1,900
Bayside and outer South Eastern suburbs (Multinet 2/AGL South zone)	\$1,890
Northern and North Eastern Victoria (AGN North/Origin North zone)	\$1,940
CBD, inner city and North Eastern suburbs (AGN Central 2/TRU East zone)	\$1,920
Frankston, Mornington Peninsula and Gippsland (AGN Central 1/Origin South East zone)	\$1,920
Macedon Ranges, Bendigo, Ballarat and Western Victoria (Ausnet West/TRU West zone)	\$1,825
Western and North Western suburbs (Ausnet Central 2/AGL North zone)	\$1,945
Outer Western suburbs, Geelong and Bellarine Peninsula (Ausnet Central 1/TRU Central zone)	\$1,930

4.1 Inner city, inner North and Eastern suburbs

Dual fuel standing offer customers in Melbourne (CBD), Brunswick, Carlton, Fitzroy, Northcote, Richmond and Collingwood have the highest average annual combined energy bills in this area, at approximately \$3,440.⁷⁷

In this area, the VDO has decreased by \$100 for standing offer customers with an annual consumption of 4,800 kWh. Households in the AGN Central 2 gas zone (CBD and inner North) have experienced an increase in gas prices of approximately \$60 over the same period.

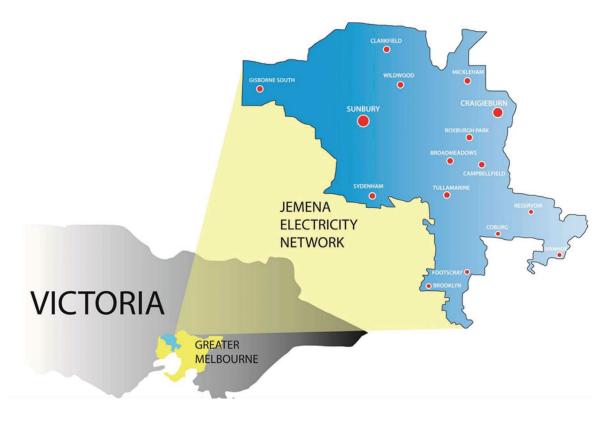


Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in Melbourne (CBD), Brunswick, Carlton, Fitzroy, Northcote, Richmond and Collingwood will typically receive a decrease in energy costs of \$40 compared to last year.⁷⁸

77 Citipower's electricity distribution network and the AGN Central 2/TRU East gas zone. 78 Ibid.

- Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in the inner Eastern suburbs of Kew, Hawthorn, Camberwell and Balwyn, and the inner South East areas of South Yarra, Prahran, Armadale, Toorak and Caulfield, will typically receive a decrease in *energy costs* of \$45 compared to last year.⁷⁹
- Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in the inner city bay side suburbs of St Kilda, Port Melbourne, Albert Park and South Melbourne will typically receive a decrease in *energy costs* of \$55 compared to last year.⁸⁰

4.2 Inner West and North Western Suburbs



Dual fuel standing offer customers in Footscray, Yarraville, Williamstown, Flemington, Moonee Ponds, Broadmeadows, Coolaroo, Braybrook and Sydenham have the highest average annual combined energy bills in this area, at approximately \$3,530.⁸¹

In this area, the VDO has decreased by \$110 for standing offer customers with an annual consumption of 4,800 kWh. Households in the Ausnet Central 2 (Western and North Western suburbs) have experienced an increase in gas prices of approximately \$90 over the same period. In the AGN Central 2 gas zone (Northern and North Eastern suburbs) bills have increased by \$60.

Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in Footscray, Yarraville, Williamstown, Flemington, Moonee Ponds, Broadmeadows, Coolaroo, Braybrook and Sydenham will typically receive a decrease in *energy costs* of \$40 compared to last year.⁸²

⁷⁹ Citipower's electricity distribution network and the Multinet 1/Origin Metro gas zone.

⁸⁰ Citipower's electricity distribution network and the Multinet 2/AGL South gas zone.

⁸¹ Jemena's electricity distribution network and the Ausnet Central 2/AGL North gas zone.

⁸² Ibid.

Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in Heidelberg, Fairfield, Ivanhoe, Bundoora, Thomastown, Preston, Reservoir will typically receive a decrease in energy costs of \$70 compared to last year.⁸³



4.3 South Eastern suburbs and Mornington Peninsula

Dual fuel standing offer customers in the suburbs of Seaford and Frankston and on the Mornington Peninsula have the highest average annual combined energy bills in this area, at approximately \$3,465.

In this area, the VDO has decreased bills by \$195 for standing offer customers with an annual consumption of 4,800 kWh. Gas standing offer bills, on the other hand, have increased by between \$40 and \$55 (depending on gas zone) over the same period.

- Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in the bayside suburbs of Elwood, Elsternwick, Brighton, Sandringham, Beaumaris, Chelsea and South Eastern Suburbs of Bentleigh, Moorabbin, Springvale, Noble Park, Keysborough will typically receive a decrease in energy costs of \$155 compared to last year.⁸⁴
- Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in the suburbs of Seaford and Frankston and on the Mornington Peninsula will typically receive a decrease in energy costs of \$155 compared to last year.⁸⁵
- Households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in the Eastern suburbs of Bulleen, Templestowe, Box Hill, Doncaster, Mitcham, Vermont, Glen Waverly and Chadstone will typically receive a decrease in energy costs of \$140 compared to last year.⁸⁶

⁸³ Jemena's electricity distribution network and the AGN Central 2/TRU East gas zone.

⁸⁴ United Energy's electricity distribution network and the Multinet 2/AGL South gas zone.

⁸⁵ United Energy's electricity distribution network and the AGN Central 1/Origin South East gas zone.

⁸⁶ United Energy's electricity distribution network and the Multinet 1/Origin Metro gas zone.

4.4 Outer Western suburbs and Western Victoria

Dual fuel standing offer customers in Northern Victorian towns such as Echuca, Shepparton and Heathcote have the highest average annual combined energy bills in this area, at approximately \$3,555.⁸⁷ For all-electric households, the average annual energy bill is of \$2,005.



For all-electric households in this area, the VDO has decreased by \$170 for standing offer customers with an annual consumption of 7,000 kWh.⁸⁸ For dual fuel households the electricity bills have decreased by approximately \$110 over the last year (based on average consumption of 4,800kWh). Gas standing offer bills, on the other hand, have increased by between \$50 and \$80 (depending on gas zone) over the same period.

Total *energy cost* decreases for dual fuel households in the Western region will typically amount to:

\$40 for average consumption households in Hoppers Crossing, Werribee, Geelong region and on the Bellarine peninsula.⁸⁹

- \$30 for average consumption households in Macedon, Kyneton, Ballarat, Colac, Warrnambool, Portland, Hamilton, Horsham, Ararat and Daylesford.⁹⁰
- \$65 for average consumption households in Northern Victorian towns such as Echuca, Shepparton and Heathcote.⁹¹

⁸⁷ Powercor's electricity distribution network and AGN North/Origin North gas zone.

⁸⁸ Based on the average electricity standing offer for households taking controlled load off-peak (annual consumption of 7000 kWh, 70% peak and 30% off-peak).

⁸⁹ Powercor's electricity distribution network and Ausnet Central 1/TRU Central gas zone.

⁹⁰ Powercor's electricity distribution network and the Ausnet West/TRU West gas zone.

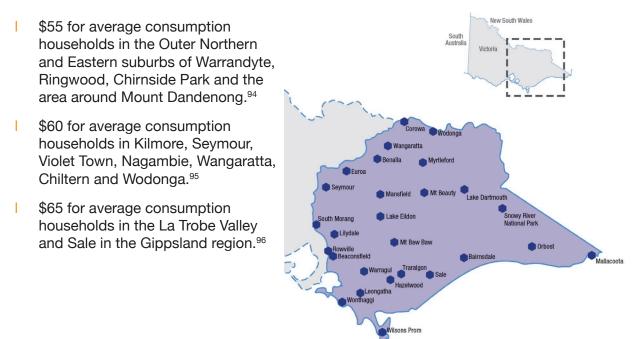
⁹¹ Powercor's electricity distribution network and the AGN North/Origin North gas zone.

4.5 Outer Northern and Eastern suburbs and Eastern Victoria

Dual fuel standing offer customers Kilmore, Seymour, Violet Town, Nagambie, Wangaratta, Chiltern and Wodonga have the highest average annual combined energy bills in this area, at approximately \$3,735, the highest of all Victoria.⁹² For all-electric households, the average annual energy bill is of \$2,240.

For all-electric households in this area, the VDO has decreased by \$165 for standing offer customers with an annual consumption of 7,000 kWh.⁹³ For dual fuel households the electricity bills have increased by approximately \$110 over the last year (based on average consumption of 4,800kWh). Gas standing offer bills, on the other hand, have increased by between \$45 and \$55 (depending on gas zone) over the same period.

Total *energy cost* decreases for dual fuel households in the Eastern Victoria will typically amount to:



⁹² Ausnet's electricity distribution network and the AGN North/ Origin North gas zone.

⁹³ Based on the average electricity standing offer for households taking controlled load off-peak (annual consumption of 7000 kWh, 70% peak and 30% off-peak).

⁹⁴ Ausnet's electricity distribution network and the Multinet 1/Origin Metro gas zone.

⁹⁵ Ausnet's electricity distribution network and the AGN North/ Origin North gas zone.

⁹⁶ Ausnet's electricity distribution network and the AGN Central 1/Origin South East gas zone.