

NSW Energy Prices 2022

An update report on the NSW Tariff-Tracking Project



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May Mauseth Johnston, August 2022









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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 Australian Energy Regulator's "Energy Made Easy" website or contact the energy retailers directly.

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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 NSW Tariff-Tracking Project: purpose and outputs

To date, this project has tracked electricity and gas tariffs in NSW 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. The first report for the NSW Tariff-Tracking project was published in August 2011 and this is the eleventh up-date report focusing on price changes that have occurred over the last year. 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.

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

Workbook 1: Regulated electricity offers July 2008 – July 2022

Workbook 2: Regulated gas offers July 2009 – July 2022

Workbook 3: Electricity market offers July 2011 – July 2022²

Workbook 4: Gas market offers July 2011 - July 2022

Workbook 5: Solar market 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 are available at www.vinnies.org.au/energy

¹ The regulated electricity offers workbook also contains the 2008 rates

² All market offers are published offers and do not include special offers that retailers market through door-knocking campaigns or brokers. We use the retailers' websites to collect market offer for the Tariff-Tracking tool. If the retailer has more than one market offer we use the offer with the best rates/discounts that do not require direct debit arrangements.

Key findings

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

- The current DMO price is lower than the standing offer that the incumbent electricity retailer in Ausgrid (Energy Australia) offered in 2018/19 prior to the DMO taking effect. In Essential Energy and Endeavour networks, however, Origin Energy's (the incumbent retailer) standing offers are now higher than those offered in 2018/19. The DMO price that took effect in July 2022 is significantly higher compared to last year. See charts 1 and 2 in section 1 below.³
- The maximum price spread (the difference between the best and the worst DMO) is highest in Essential at \$1,260. In Ausgrid the price spread is \$1,215 and in Essential it is \$1,195.4 The maximum price spread between DMO offers is much higher than last year when the difference was between \$225 and \$390 (depending on network area). See chart 5 in section 1 below.
- Due to the sharp increase in wholesale prices in recent months, many retailers have actively encouraged customers to leave or ceased offering market offers all together. Retailers are, however, obliged to offer customers a standing offer based on the regulated DMO. That said, the DMO is based on a set consumption level and the standing offer prices can therefore vary significantly for customers with a higher consumption level.
- Gas prices increased by \$95 per annum (9%) in Sydney (AGL/Jemena) post July 2022. The annual bill is now around \$1,100 per annum for households using 24,000 MJ.5 In the gas zones where Origin is the incumbent retailer, standing offer prices have increased by between 7 to 12%. In ActewAGL's gas zones, standing offer customers have experienced price increases of 2 and 6%.6 See table 3 in section 1.
- Households with typical electricity consumption (7,200kWh) can save \$275 \$420 per annum (depending on their network area) if switching from the incumbent retailer's standing offer to the best market offer. See section 2.1.
- The average electricity market offer (including guaranteed and pay on time discounts) produces an annual bill of \$3,035 in the Essential Energy network, \$2,565 in Ausgrid and \$2,585 in Endeavour.8 See section 2.1.
- In July 2022, the average market offer for households consuming 7,200 kWh per annum increased by 38% in Endeavour, by 36% in Ausgrid and by 34% in Essential.9 See section 2.1.
- The difference between electricity market offers continues to be significant. The difference between the best and the worst market offer ranges \$1,900 (in Essential's area) to \$1,980 (in Endeavour's area) for customers with typical consumption levels. 10 See section 2.1.

³ Based on the incumbent retailers' standing offers as of July 2018 and the DMO for each network area. This bill comparison is based on the consumption levels used for setting the DMO price.

⁴ Based on a comparison of all DMO offers (single rate) for households consuming 7,200 kWh per annum.

⁵ Based on households consuming 24,000Mj per annum on AGL's standing offer.

⁶ These bill calculations are based on the incumbent retailers' published standard offer as of July 2021 and July 2022.

⁷ Based on the incumbent retailer's standing offer (single rate) and the best of the published market offers (including additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

⁸ Based on the average market offer (all retailers) for each network area, single rate and inclusive of pay on time discounts.

⁹ Ibid. Post July 2022 offers compared to post July 2021 offers.

¹⁰ Households using 7,200kWh per annum (single rate) and all market offer bills include additional discounts and/or pay on time

- Typical consumption gas customers in Jemena's Sydney price zone can potentially save \$205 on their annual gas bill (including pay on time discounts) by switching from AGL's standard offer to the best market offer. 11 See section 2.2.
- Compared to electricity offers, the difference between the best and the worst gas market offers is quite small. The difference between the best and the worst market offers is \$430 per annum. See section 2.2.
- All electricity retailers increased their market offers between July 2021 and July 2022.12 There are, however, significant differences in the size of the individual retailers' increases. GloBird and ReAmped have increased their offers by around \$2,000 in some network areas while Diamond, Sumo and Dodo have had more restrained increases. See section 3.
- All gas retailers, except Red Energy, increased their market offers between July 2021 and July 2022.13 See section 3.
- As of July 2022, the electricity network charges decreased in Ausgrid while it increased in Essential and Endeavour. The network proportion of the retail bill is currently 30% in Ausgrid and Endeavour and 38% in Essential. See section 4.1.
- For gas, the distribution charges decreased in July 2022. 14 Gas distribution charges as proportion of bills also decreased in July 2022 as the retail bill increased while the DUOS decreased. The DUOS proportion of gas retail bills is currently 22% (down from 24% last year). See section 4.2.
- The average annual bill for new solar customers (using 7,200 kWh/annum) with 3kW systems installed is around \$910 to \$1,030 less compared to non-solar customers. See section 5.
- The analysis of solar offers in the Ausgrid network shows that Amber Electric, GloBird and ReAmped Energy's offers produce annual bills above the average for both 3 kW and 1.5 kW systems. 15 This is despite GloBird offering the highest first FIT rate (20 cents) of all the solar offers. Sydney (Ausgrid) solar customers with 1.5 kW systems (and this consumption level) would be approximately \$1,485 per annum better off on Sumo Power' offer compared to GloBird's offer, despite Sumo Power's lower FIT rate. This highlights the importance of solar customers not choosing retail offers based on FIT rates alone and recognise the impact a declining FIT rate can have on bills. See section 5.
- Dual fuel households in western Sydney have received the greatest increase to energy costs as annual gas bills have increased by around \$90 in the Jemena network in addition to a \$335 increase to electricity bills in the Endeavour network. See section 6.

¹¹ Based on AGL's standing offer and the best of the published market offers (including pay on time discounts).

¹² Note that this analysis only includes retailers that had published market offers in July 2021 as well as July 2022.

¹³ Note that this analysis only includes retailers that had published market offers in July 2021 as well as July 2022.

¹⁴ Based on the Jemena gas zone in greater Sydney.

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.

1. Energy price changes (standing offers)

On 1 July 2019, the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) initial Default Market Offer (DMO) took effect in NSW. The DMO replaced the previously retailer-set standing offers. The AER's DMO is expressed as an annual bill for a set consumption level and retailers are still able to "translate the annual amount into different tariff structures". The Regulations stipulate that retailers must structure their prices to not exceed the annual DMO price for that consumption level. In both July 2020 and July 2021, the price of the DMO decreased while it increased significantly in July 2022.

The DMO prices for single rate and controlled load tariffs in NSW are listed in Table 1 below.¹⁸

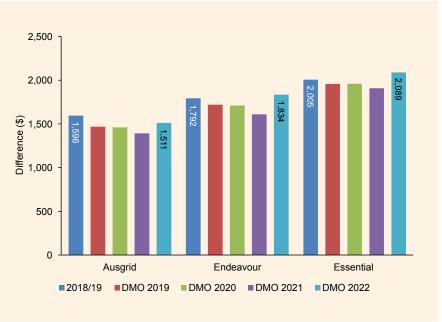
TABLE 1 | Residential DMO prices in NSW for 2022-23 (including GST)

	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1					
	Ausgrid	Endeavour Energy	Essential Energy			
SINGLE / FLAT RATE						
Annual bill	\$1,512	\$1,836	\$2,092			
Consumption level	3,900 kWh/annum	4,900 kWh/annum	4,600 kWh/annum			
CONTROLLED LOA	D^					
Annual bill	\$2,122	\$2,383	\$2,490			
Consumption level	6,800 kWh/annum	7,400 kWh/annum	6,600 kWh/annum			

[^]Approximately 30% of the annual consumption is allocated to the controlled load tariff.

The current DMO price is lower than the standing offer that the incumbent retailer in Ausgrid (Energy Australia) offered in 2018/19 while it is higher than the standing offers that the incumbent retailer in Endeavour and Essential (Origin Energy) offered. Charts 1 and 2 below show changes to annual bills from July 2018 to July 2022 for households on the incumbent retailers standing offers (single rate and controlled load) in the three network areas. These bill calculations are based on the consumption levels used by the AER to set the DMO (see table 1 above).



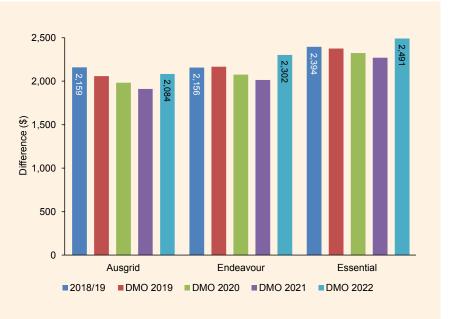


¹⁶ AER, Default Market Offer Prices 2020-21, Final Determination, April 2020, 9

¹⁷ Ibid., 9

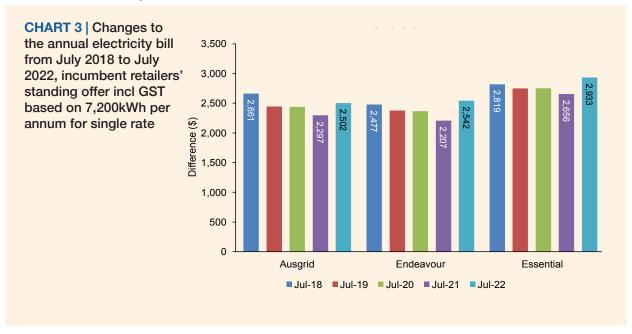
¹⁸ AER, Default Market Offer Prices 2022-23, Final Determination, May 2022, 7.

CHART 2 | Changes to the annual electricity bill from July 2018 to July 2022, incumbent retailers' standing offer in July 2018 and AER's DMO in July 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022. Controlled load, incl. GST and based on 6,800kWh per annum in Ausgrid, 7,400kWh in Endeavour and 6,600kWh in Essential.



As the Tariff-Tracking project aims to monitor and assess changes to energy prices over time, the remaining analysis presented in this report will be based on the consumption levels previous Tariff-Tracking reports have used for NSW. That is 7,200 kWh per annum for single rate customers and 8,000 kWh per annum for households with controlled load. ¹⁹

Chart 3 shows changes to the host retailers' annual bills from July 2018 to July 2022 for average consumption households (single rate) in the three network areas. It shows that compared to last year (July 2021), Energy Australia's annual bill in the Ausgrid network increased by \$205, Origin's annual bills in the Endeavour network increased by \$335 and Origin's annual bills in the Essential network increased by almost \$280.



¹⁹ These calculations are based on changes to the incumbent retailers' standing offer for single rate electricity customers using 7,200kWh per annum, changes to the incumbent retailers' standing offer for controlled load electricity customers (typically all-electric households) using 8,000kWh per annum (thereof 30% off-peak) and changes to the regulated offer for gas customers using 24,000Mj per annum.

Chart 4 shows changes to the host retailers' annual bills from July 2018 to July 2022 for average consumption households with controlled load. It shows that compared to last year (July 2021), Energy Australia's annual bill in the Ausgrid network increased by approximately \$245 and Origin's annual bills in the Endeavour network increased by around \$315 and Origin's annual bills in the Essential network increased by just over \$260.

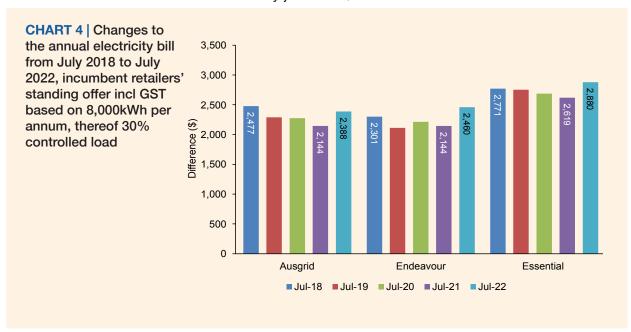
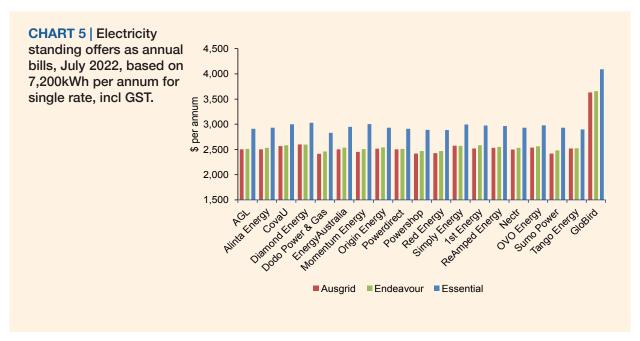


Chart 5 shows estimated annual bills for standing offer/DMO customers (single rate, 7,200kWh/annum) in each of the three network areas. The average standing offer is highest in Essential's area (approximately \$3,000) while Endeavour and Ausgrid's average standing offer are roughly \$2,590 and \$2,560 respectively. The maximum price spread (the difference between the best and the worst offer) is highest in Essential at \$1,260. In Endeavour the price spread is \$1,195 and in Ausgrid it is \$1,215.

Due to the sharp increase in wholesale prices in recent months, many retailers have actively encouraged customers to leave or ceased offering market offers all together. Retailers are, however, obliged to offer customers a standing offer based on the regulated DMO. That said, the DMO is based on a set consumption level and the standing offer prices can therefore vary significantly for customers with higher consumption. Chart 5 shows that GloBird is the retailer with the most expensive standing offer for this consumption level. In the Essential network, for example, it manages to charge these high standing offer prices through an inclining block tariff where the first rate is 33.22 cents per kWh and the second rate is 99 cents per kWh. The second rate only applies to households that use more than 5,472 kWh per annum and as customers on the DMO based consumption level of 4,600 kWh per annum are below this threshold only the lower charge is applied to them.



The three standard gas retailers are AGL, ActewAGL and Origin Energy. Jemena's Sydney zone (AGL) is the largest in terms of customer numbers. Origin is the incumbent retailer in seven pricing zones while ActewAGL is in three.

TABLE 2 | Gas supply areas in NSW

NSW Gas Zones and incumbent retailers					
Jemena Sydney (AGL)	Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Blue Mountains				
Jemena Regional (ActewAGL)	Boroowa, Goulburn, Yass and Young				
Envestra (Origin)	Cooma and Bombala				
	Temora*, Holbrook, Henty, Culcairn and Walla Walla				
	Tumut and Gundagai				
	Wagga Wagga and Uranquity				
	Albury, Moama and Jindera				
	Murray Valley Towns				
Central ranges (Origin)	Tamworth				
ActewAGL (ActewAGL)	Queanbeyan and Bundgendore				
	Shoalhaven				

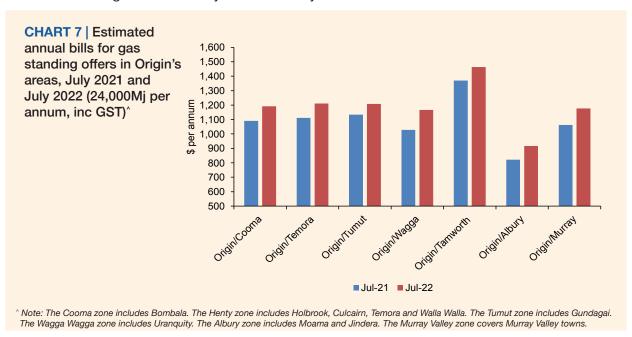
^{*} Temora has been under the same pricing zone as Holbrook, Henty etc. since July 2013

The difference between winter and summer consumption will vary significantly from household to household (depending primarily upon usage of gas space heating). The charts below do not adjust for increased winter consumption but assume consistent consumption levels throughout the year. Because of the seasonality of gas consumption and gas tariffs the annual bill calculations presented in this report are indicative only, and their primary purpose is to track changes over time and analyse differences between gas zones.

Gas prices increased by almost \$95 per annum (9%) in Sydney (AGL/Jemena) post July 2022. The annual bill is now around \$1,100 per annum for households using 24,000 MJ.²⁰ In the gas zones where Origin is the incumbent retailer, standing offer prices have increased by between 7 to 12%. In ActewAGL's gas zones, standing offer customers have experienced price increases of 2 and 6%.²¹



Charts 7 and 8 below show annual gas bills for the regional gas zones based on the incumbent retailer's standing offer as of July 2021 and July 2022.



²⁰ Based on households consuming 24,000Mj per annum on AGL's standing offer.

²¹ These bill calculations are based on the incumbent retailers' published standing offer as of July 2021 and July 2022.

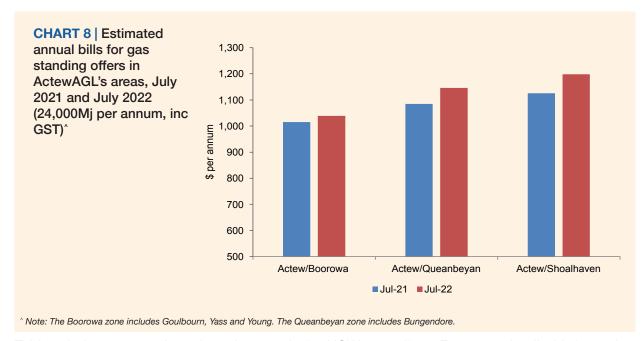


Table 3 below summarises the price trends for NSW gas offers. For more detailed information about the areas and differences in energy price changes see section 5.

TABLE 3 | Changes to gas prices by area July 2021 – July 2022²²

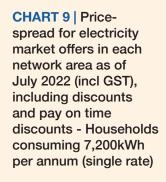
Area	Changes to annual bill since July 2021	Percentage
Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Blue Mountains (AGL)	\$95	9%
Cooma and Bombala (Origin)	\$100	9%
Temora, Holbrook, Henty, Culcairn and Walla (Origin)	\$100	9%
Tumut and Gundagai (Origin)	\$75	7%
Wagga Wagga and Uranquity (Origin)	\$140	14%
Tamworth (Origin)	\$95	7%
Boroowa, Goulburn, Yass and Young (ActewAGL)	\$25	2%
Queanbeyan and Bundgendore (ActewAGL)	\$60	6%
Shoalhaven (ActewAGL)	\$70	12%
Albury, Moama and Jindera (Origin)	\$95	11%
Murray Valley Towns (Origin)	\$115	6%

²² Based on standing offer gas rates for customers using 24,000Mj per annum.

2. Market offers July 2022

2.1 Electricity market offers July 2022

- The average electricity market offer (including guaranteed and pay on time discounts) produces an annual bill of \$3,035 in the Essential Energy network, \$2,565 in Ausgrid and \$2,585 in Endeavour.²³
- In July 2022, the average market offer for households consuming 7,200 kWh per annum increased by 34% in Essential, by 36% Ausgrid, and by 38% in Endeavour.²⁴
- Typical consumption households (7,200kWh) can save \$275 \$420 per annum (depending on their network area) if switching from the incumbent retailer's standing offer to the best market offer.²⁵ The maximum saving is less compared to last year when it was \$610 - \$725.
- The difference between the best and the worst market offer ranges \$1,900 (in Essential's area) to \$1,980 (in Endeavour's area) for customers with typical consumption levels. 26 Chart 9 below shows the retail market offer price-spread within each of the three network areas. This difference is significantly higher compared to last year when it was \$630 - \$765.



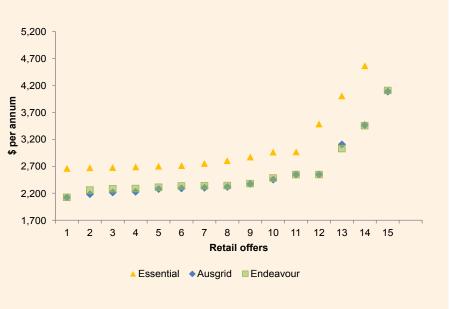


Table 4 below shows additional discounts applicable to the electricity retailers' published market offer rates. Table 4 also shows other contract terms and features, such as late payment fees, associated with these market offers. Some of the retailers have multiple market offers and may offer higher (or lower) discounts than those listed here. However, if the discounts are higher they are tied to other conditions such as payment by direct debit.

There are some retailers (Energy Locals and Amber Electric) that have offers that include a membership fee. When analysis offers that include a membership fee, we have added this amount to the fixed supply charge.

²³ Based on the average market offer (all retailers) for each network area, single rate and inclusive of pay on time discounts.

²⁴ Ibid. Post July 2022 offers compared to post July 2021 offers. Note the 2022 average are made up of fewer retailers than the 2021 average.

²⁵ Based on the incumbent retailer's standing offer (single rate) and the best of the published market offers (including additional discounts and/or pay on time discounts).

²⁶ Households using 7,200kWh per annum (single rate) and all market offer bills include additional discounts and/or pay on time

TABLE 4 | Published electricity market offers as of July 2022: Key additional features and contract conditions

Retailer	Name	Effective from	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Late payment fee	Shortened billing cycle^	Early termination fee
Energy Locals	Online Member	19/07/22	no	no	\$16	no	no
AGL	Value Saver	4/07/22	no	no	\$12	no	no
Alinta Energy	Home Deal	19/07/22	no	no	no	yes	no
Diamond Energy	Renewable Saver	1/07/22	no	2% off bill	\$15	no	no
Dodo Power & Gas	Market offer	27/06/21	no	no	no	no	no
EnergyAustralia	Flexi Plan	1/08/22	8% off bill	no	\$12	no	no
Origin Energy	Go Variable	1/07/22	no	no	\$12	no	no
Powershop	Carbon Neutral	16/06/22	no	no	no	yes	no
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	11/07/22	no	no	no	no	no
Simply Energy	NRMA*	1/07/22	1% off bill	no	\$12	no	no
ReAmped Energy	Advance	23/06/22	no	no	no	yes^^	no
Amber Electric	Amber Plan	1/07/22	no	no	\$16	yes	no
Sumo Power	Assure	5/06/22	no	no	no	yes	no
Globird Energy	GloSave	2/06/22	no	no	no	no	no
Kogan Energy**	Market Offer	16/06/22	no	no	no	yes	no

[^] If yes, the offer has a mandatory shortened billing cycle (monthly billing)

2.1.1 Potential savings - Differences between electricity offers

Typical consumption households (7,200kWh per annum) on the incumbent retailer's standing offer can save \$275 - \$420 per annum if switching to the best published market offer.²⁷ Importantly, it is the difference between individual retailers' offers that can produce significant savings if switching from a standing offer to a market offer. Customers who choose to stay with the same retailer, but changes to a market offer, are unlikely to experience annual savings as large as these.

Charts 10-12 below show annual retail bills for typical consumption (7,200kWh per annum, single rate) for each of the three network areas. The columns to the left represent the market offer bills including guaranteed discounts (but not pay on time discounts) while the columns to the right are market offer bills including pay on time discounts.²⁸ The dotted lines show the average market offer (including pay on time discounts) in each network area.

^{^^} Fortnightly billing cycle

^{*} Plan only available to NRMA members

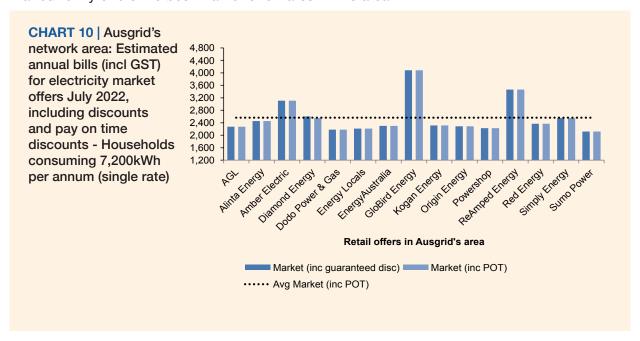
^{**} Must be or become a Kogan First member

²⁷ Based on market offer bills that include discounts and pay on time discounts.

²⁸ These market offers were collected between 10 July and 1 August 2022 and it should be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Discounts (excluding GST) have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in table 3.

Ausgrid

In Ausgrid's area, average consumption households on Energy Australia's standing offer can save \$380 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer that currently offers the best market offer rates in this area.



The difference between the best and the worst market offer is more significant. Sumo Power's offer is approximately \$1,960 less than GloBird Energy'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 Ausgrid's network area. 29

FIGURE 1 | Ausgrid's network area: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 7,200kWh per annum (single rate)

sumo	Sumo Power	\$2,122	Red Energy	\$2,371
dodo: POWER & GAS	Dodo Power & Gas	\$2,181	Alinta Energy	\$2,452
EnergyLocals	Energy Locals	\$2,214	Simply Energy	\$2,547
POWERSHOP Abditor planter Gampany	Powershop	\$2,224	▶ Plamond Energy	\$2,548
≥ <mark>\</mark> agl	AGL	\$2,277	Amber Electric	\$3,104
origin	Origin Energy	\$2,291	ReAmped Energy	\$3,460
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia	\$2,302	GloBird Energy	\$4,082
kugan	Kogan Energy	\$2,317		

²⁹ These market offers were collected between 10 July and 1 August 2022 and it should 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.

Endeavour

In Endeavour's network area, average consumption households on Origin's standing offer can save approximately \$420 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Sumo Power is the retailer with the best market offer rates.



The difference between the best and the worst market offer is more significant. Sumo Power's offer is approximately \$1,980 less than GloBird Energy'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 Endeavour's network.30

FIGURE 2 | Endeavour's network area: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 7,200kWh per annum (single rate)

sumo Power	\$2,122	Red Energy	\$2,374
Powershop	\$2,258	Alinta Energy	\$2,480
Energy Locals	\$2,281	Diamond Energy	\$2,542
Dodo Power & Gas	\$2,287	Simply Energy	\$2,545
AGL AGL	\$2,310	Amber Electric	\$3,025
EnergyAustralia	\$2,333	ReAmped Energy	\$3,450
kogan Energy	\$2,337	GloBird Energy	\$4,102
Origin Energy	\$2,339		

³⁰ These market offers were collected between 10 July and 1 August 2022 and it should 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.

Essential

In Essential's network area, average consumption households on Origin's standing offer can save approximately \$275 per annum if switching to the best published market offer. Powershop is the retailer with the best market offer rates in this network area.



As in other network areas, the difference between the best and the worst market offer is significant. Powershop's offer is approximately \$1,900 less per annum than GloBird Energy's market offer post discounts (and pay on time discounts) for households with this consumption level. Figure 3 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts in Essential's network area. 31

FIGURE 3 | Essential's network area: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 7,200kWh per annum (single rate)

Powershop	\$2,659	Red Energy	\$2,802
Dodo Power & Gas	\$2,674	Alinta Energy	\$2,872
AGL AGL	\$2,675	Simply Energy	\$2,965
Energy Locals	\$2,688	▶ Plamond Diamond Energy	\$2,967
Origin Energy	\$2,699	Amber Electric	\$3,485
EnergyAustralia EnergyAustralia	\$2,713	ReAmped Energy	\$4,007
kugan Kogan Energy	\$2,751	GloBird Energy	\$4,560

³¹ These market offers were collected between 10 July and 1 August 2022 and it should 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

2.2 Gas market offers July 2022

There is a number of gas market offers available in NSW but the Sydney area (Jemena/AGL gas zone) is the only area that has more than three offers. As such, this analysis only comprises market offers in the greater Sydney area.

- The difference between the best and the worst gas market offer is \$430 per annum. See chart 13 below.
- Typical consumption households (24,000 Mj) can save \$205 per annum if switching from AGL's standing offer to the best market offer.³² See chart 15 below. This is a decrease from last year (July 2021), when the maximum saving was \$300.

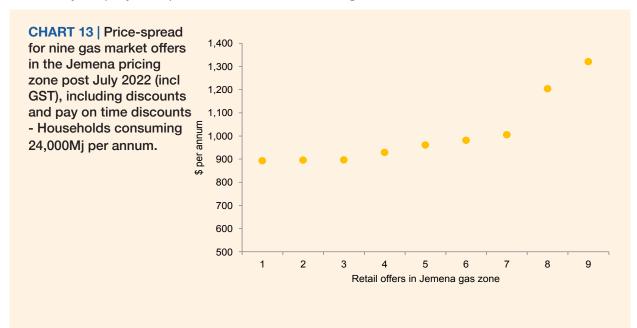
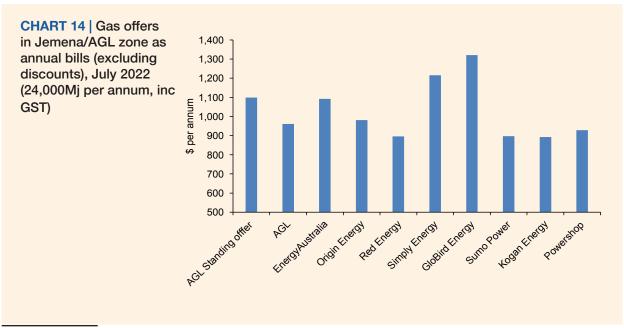


Chart 14 below shows that two of the retailers have rates (prior to discounts) that are higher than AGL's standing offer rates.33



³² Based on the regulated offer and the best of the published market offers (including pay on time discounts).

³³ These market offers were collected between 11th and 18th of July 2022 and it should be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time.

The calculations for the market offers in chart 14 include rates only (cost per MJ and fixed charges) and do not include other market offer features such as discounts on consumption rates, vouchers, sign-up credits, loyalty bonuses and discounts if bills are paid on time. As such, consumers assessing market offers should take these additional features into account as well as being aware of contract conditions such as late payment fees, the length of the contract and fees for exiting the contract early.

Table 5 below shows additional discounts applicable to the gas retailers' published market offer rates. It also shows other contract terms and features, such as late payment fees, associated with these market offers.

TABLE 5 | Published gas market offers in Jemena/AGL gas zone post July 2022: Key additional features and contract conditions

Retailer	Name	Effective from	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Late payment fee	Contract term/ benefit period	Early termination fee
AGL	Value Saver	4/07/22	no	no	\$12	12 months	no
EnergyAustralia	Flexi Plan	1/07/22	8% off bill	no	\$12	12 months	no
Origin Energy	Go Variable	1/07/22	no	no	\$12	12 months	no
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	1/07/22	no	no	no	no	no
Simply Energy [^]	NRMA	1/07/22	1% off bill	no	\$12	no	no
GloBird	GloSave	16/06/22	no	no	no	no	no
Sumo Power	Assure	25/03/22	no	no	no	no	no
Kogan Energy^^	Kogan First	18/7/22	no	no	no	no	no
Powershop^^^	Carbon Neutral	16/6/22	no	no	no	no	no

Only available to members of NRMA

<u>2.2.1 Potential savings - Differences between gas offers</u>

Chart 15 below shows annual retail bills for market offers compared to AGL's standing offer for typical consumption households (24,000kMj per annum) in the Jemena/AGL gas zone. The blue 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.34 The line represents AGL's standing offer rates that took effect in July 2022.

Customers switching from AGL's standard offer to Kogan or Red Energy's market offers can potentially save \$205 on their annual gas bill. If customers on AGL's standard offer switch to AGL's market offer, they will save almost \$140 per annum. If they switched to Simply or GloBird's market offers, however, they would be significantly worse off.

Must be or become a Kogan First member

^{^^^} Only available to Powershop electricity customers

³⁴ These market offers were collected between 11th and 18th of July 2022 and it should be noted that retailers may change their rates at any time. Discounts have been applied to consumption and/or total bill as per offers listed in table 5.





Compared to electricity offers, the difference between the best and the worst gas market offers is quite small. Figure 4 below shows estimated annual bills for gas market offers post discounts in the Jemena/AGL gas zone. The difference between the best (Kogan Energy) and the worst (GloBird) market offer is currently \$430 per annum (last year the difference was \$190).

FIGURE 4 | Jemena/AGL gas zone: Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for gas market offers post July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 24,000Mj per annum³⁵

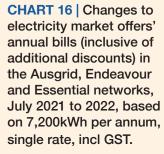
Kogan Energy	\$ 893	Origin Energy	\$ 981
Red Energy	\$ 896	EnergyAustralia EnergyAustralia	\$1,005
sumo Power	\$ 897	Simply Energy	\$1,204
Powershop	\$ 929	GloBird Energy	\$1,321
AGL AGL	\$ 961		

³⁵ These market offers were collected between 11th and 18th of July 2022 and it should 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.

3. Changes to market offers from July 2021 to 2022

This section analyses changes to individual retailers' market offers from July 2021 to July 2022.36

Chart 16 below shows that all electricity retailers increased their market offers between July 2021 and July 2022. Furthermore, it shows that there are significant differences in the size of the individual retailers' increases. GloBird and ReAmped have increased their offers by around \$2,000 in some network areas while Diamond, Sumo and Dodo have had more restrained increases.



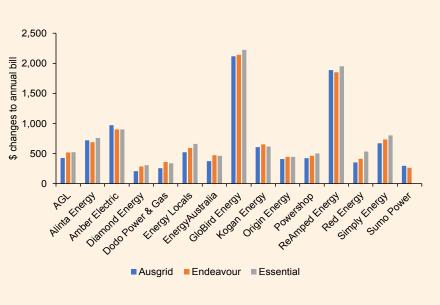
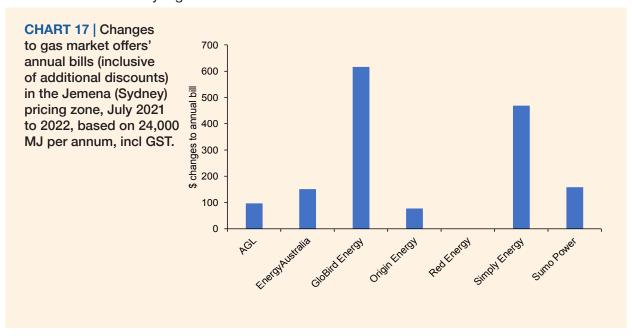


Chart 17 below shows that all gas retailers, except Red Energy, increased their market offers between July 2021 and July 2022. It also shows that GloBird and Simply Energy's increases have been substantially higher than other retailers.



³⁶ Note that this analysis only includes retailers that had published market offers in July 2021 as well as July 2022. As many retailers have discontinued their 2021 offers and introduced new market offers, this analysis is based on market offers deemed best value as well as "standard" (e.g. no direct debit requirements etc.) in both July 2021 and July 2022. Where this has occurred, the offers used for this comparison (2021/2022) are: AGL (Super Saver/Value Saver), Energy Australia (Total Saver/Flexi Plan), Origin Energy (Go/Go Variable), Simply Energy (Energy Saver/NRMA) and GloBird (UltraSave/GloSave).

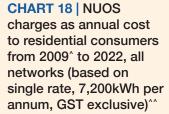
4. Network charges

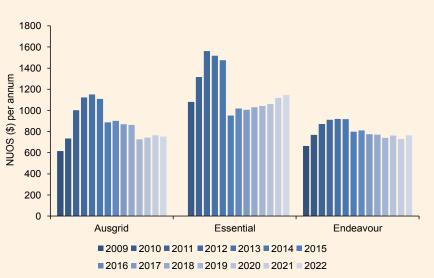
This section examines changes to electricity network charges since 2009 and gas distribution charges since 2019.

4.1 Electricity network charges

The NSW electricity networks (Ausgrid, Essential and Endeavour) introduce 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 and metering charges. The retailers can, and generally will, build changes to the NUOS (in relation to both shape and price) into their retail tariffs.

The charts presented below show that while the NUOS charges for average consumption households increased significantly from 2009 to 2012, they then flattened out before substantially decreasing in 2015. In July 2017, 2018 and 2019, the NUOS decreased somewhat in all network areas except for in Essential where there were small increases in July 2018 and 2019. As of July 2020, the NUOS increased slightly in all network areas and in July 2021, the NUOS increased in Ausgrid and Essential while it decreased in Endeavour. In July 2022, the NUOS decreased in Ausgrid and increased in Essential and Endeavour. See chart 18 below.

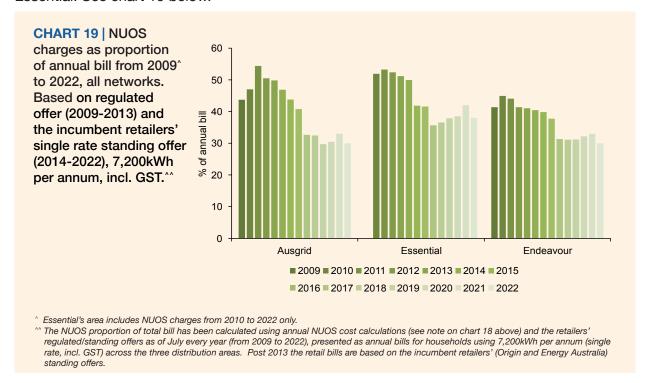




[^] Essential's area includes NUOS charges from 2010 to 2022 only.

[^] The annual NUOS charges have been calculated by allocating 1,800kWh per quarter (again based on annual consumption of 7,200kWh) to the step charges stipulated in the NUOS (excluding GST). The annual NUOS cost also includes fixed charges.

Network charges as proportion of total bill decreased in all networks in July 2022 due to higher retail bill increases. The proportion is currently 30% in Ausgrid and Endeavour and 38% in Essential. See chart 19 below.



Charts 20-22 below show annual retail bills (solid line), NUOS charges as annual cost (dotted line) and as proportion of annual bill (columns) for each of the network areas. The methodology used for these calculations is the same as for charts 18-19 above.

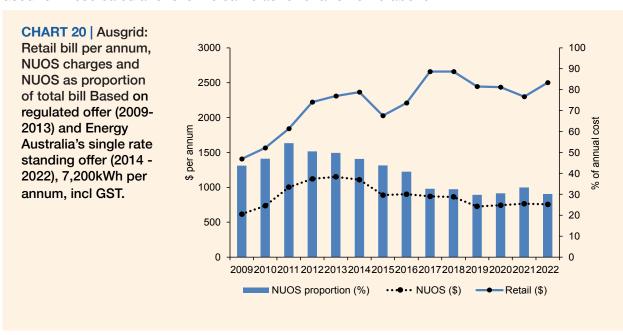


CHART 21 | Endeavour Energy: Retail bill per annum, NUOS charges and NUOS as proportion of total bill Based on regulated offer (2009-2013) and Origin's single rate standing offer (2014 - 2022), 7,200kWh per annum, incl. GST

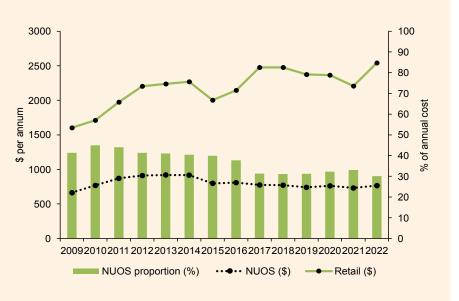
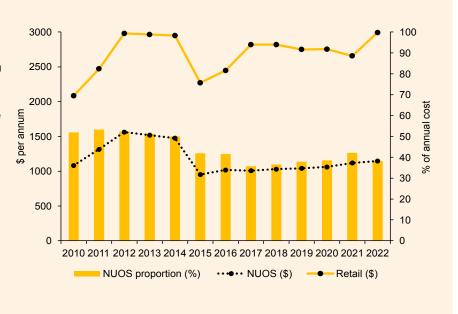


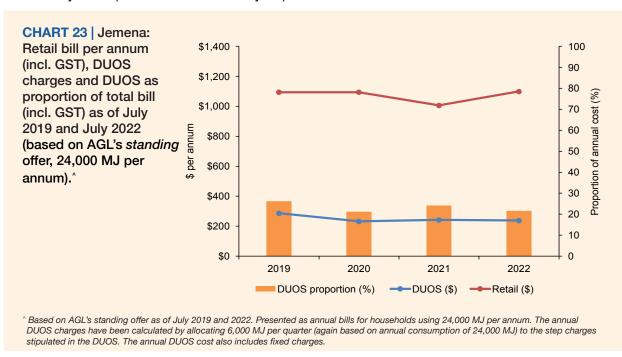
CHART 22 | Essential Energy: Retail bill per annum, NUOS charges and NUOS as proportion of total bill Based on regulated offer (2010-2013) and Origin's single rate standing offer (2014 - 2022), 7,200kWh per annum, incl. GST



4.2 Gas network charges

A more recent addition to the Tariff-Tracking project has been to analyse changes to gas distribution charges. As discussed in section 1.2 above, there are several gas distributor in NSW and this analysis therefore focuses on the main gas distribution area which is Jemena Coastal.

As for electricity, the NSW gas distributor, Jemena, introduces new Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charges as of 1 July every year. Chart 23 below shows that the DUOS charges decreased in July 2020 and increased in July 2021. It also shows that the DUOS proportion of bills increased in July 2021 as the retail bill decreased while the DUOS increased. In July 2022, on the other hand, the retail bill increased while the DUOS decreased. The DUOS proportion of gas retail bills is currently 22% (down from 24% last year).



5. Solar offers

There are over 662,000 small scale solar systems in NSW.37 For 2022-23, IPART stated that a fair and reasonable benchmark range for solar electricity fed back into the grid is between 6.2 and 10.4 cents per kWh.³⁸ However, the retailers are not obliged to offer a FIT in this range. Customers looking for solar offers need to assess both the retailers' FIT rates as well as the cost of electricity imported.

This section analyses and compares market offer bills for NSW customers with 1.5 kW and 3 kW systems installed.³⁹ 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.

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 7,200kWh (including both produced and imported).
- Calculations have been produced for households with 1.5 kW and 3 kW systems only.
- For Sydney households, an annual generation capacity per kW installed of 1.614 MWh and an export rate of 49.9% for 3 kW systems and 18.9% for 1.5 kW systems.
- For non-metropolitan households, an annual generation capacity per kW installed of 1.801 MWh and an export rate of 55.1% for 3 kW systems and 27.3% for 1.5 kW systems.
- Only FIT rates available to new customers have been included. Retailer funded FIT rates have been applied as per offer (see table 8 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 or monthly thresholds). Daily fixed charges have been multiplied by 91 to calculate the quarterly amount.

The average FIT rate (across all retailers) has been declining in recent years and the current average FIT rate is 8 c/kWh (down from 8.5 c/kWh in July 2021). Furthermore, some retailers (Red Energy, Energy Locals, AGL and Origin Energy) continue to offer a relatively high FIT rate for a set amount of kWh exported each day and a much lower FIT rate for any export above that.

A declining FIT rate can have significant impact on households with a moderate export capacity. A Sydney household exporting 604 kWh per quarter, for example, would receive a quarterly FIT credit of approximately \$360 on Red Energy's declining FIT rate of 18 cents and 6 cents. The same household would have received a guarterly FIT credit of around \$485 if they were on GloBird's SolarPlus offer with a single FIT rate of 20 cents. That said, GloBird's import rates are much higher than Red Energy so the total bill would be lower for Red Energy customers.

³⁷ Small scale is defined as systems up to 100 kW. Clean Energy Council, Clean Energy Australia Report 2022, 76

³⁸ See IPART, IPART forecasts higher solar feed-in tariffs for NSW in 2022-23, Media Release, 10 June 2022 at https://www.ipart. nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/cm9_documents/Media-Release-Solar-feed-in-tariff-benchmark-2022-23--10-June-2022.PDF

³⁹ 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.

TABLE 6 | Retailers' FIT rates (July 2022)

Retailer*	Offer	1st FIT rate (c/kWh)	Threshold	2nd FIT rate (c/kWh)
GloBird Energy	SolarPlus	20		
Red Energy	Solar Saver	18	5 kWh/day	6
Energy Locals	Online Member	11	10 kWh/day	6.2
AGL	Solar Savers	10	14 kWh/day	5
EnergyAustralia	Solar Max	10		
Origin Energy	Solar Boost	10	14 kWh/day	5
Simply Energy	NRMA	8		
Alinta Energy	Home Deal	6.7		
Dodo Power & Gas	Market Offer	6.2		
Sumo Power	Assure	5.5		
Diamond Energy	Renewable Saver	5.2		
Powershop	Carbon neutral	5		
Kogan Energy	Market Offer	4.35		
Amber Electric	Amber Plan	0		
ReAmped Energy	Solar	0		

Chart 24 below compares annual retail bills for solar customers in Sydney (Ausgrid) with 3 kW and 1.5 kW installed.40 It shows that for this consumption level, the average market offer bill for households in this area with a 3 kW system installed is \$1,650 and that is \$915 less than the average market offer bill for non-solar customers (see section 2.1 above). Households with a 1.5 kW system installed will have an average annual bill of \$1,960.

Chart 24 also shows that Amber Electric, GloBird and ReAmped Energy's offers produce annual bills above the average for both 3 kW and 1.5 kW systems. This is despite GloBird offering the highest first FIT rate (20 cents) of all the solar offers. Sydney (Ausgrid) solar customers with 1.5 kW systems (and this consumption level) would be approximately \$1,485 per annum better off on Sumo Power' offer compared to GloBird's offer, despite Sumo Power's lower FIT rate. This highlights the importance of solar customers not choosing retail offers based on FIT rates alone and recognise the impact a declining FIT rate can have on bills. Customers with a 3kW system installed may save \$1,095 per annum if they switched from GloBird to Energy Locals' offer.

⁴⁰ 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.

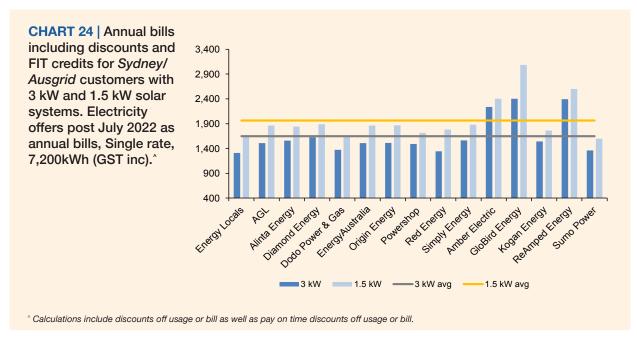
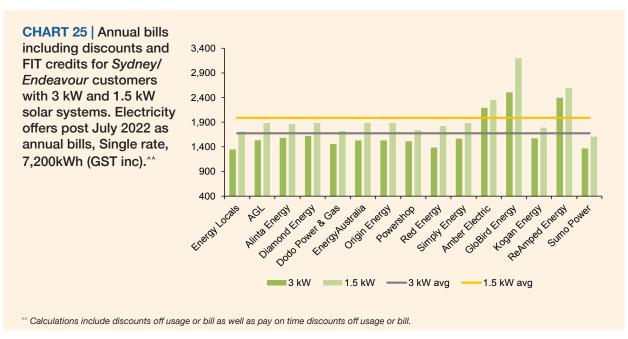
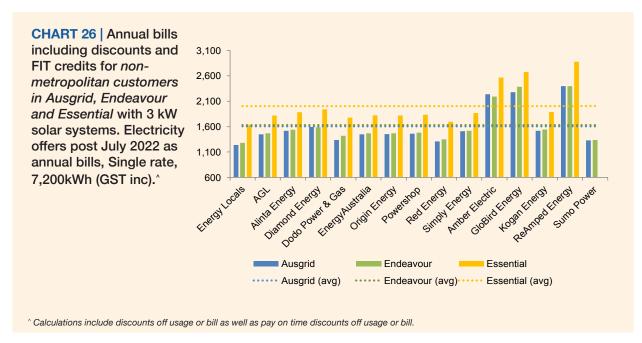


Chart 25 below shows annual bills for Sydney solar customers in the Endeavour network. It shows that for this consumption level, the average market offer bill for households in this area with a 3 kW system installed is \$1,675 and that is \$910 less than the average market offer bill for non-solar customers (see section 2.1 above). Households with a 1.5 kW system installed will have an average annual bill of \$1,990.



Homes outside Sydney's metropolitan area will typically have less overshadowing and therefore a higher generation capacity and export rate. Chart 26 compares annual retail bills for nonmetropolitan solar customers with 3 kW systems in the three network areas. It shows that the average annual bill for non-metropolitan solar customers with this consumption level is \$1,605 in Ausgrid, \$1,630 in Endeavour and \$2,005 in Essential. Compared to non-solar households, the average bill is around \$960 less in Ausgrid and Endeavour, and \$1,030 less in Essential (see section 2.1 above for non-solar customers).



Figures 6 - 8 below show estimated annual bills for solar market offers including FIT and discounts for Sydney customers in Ausgrid and Endeavour's networks and non-metropolitan customers in the Essential network (all based on 3 kW systems).⁴¹

FIGURE 6 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts – Sydney households in the *Ausgrid* network with 3kW systems installed and consuming 7,200kWh annum (including both produced and imported), single rate

EnergyLocals	Energy Locals	\$1,308	kugan Energy Kogan Energy	\$1,544
red **	Red Energy	\$1,345	Alinta Energy	\$1,559
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,362	Simply Energy	\$1,561
DOWER & GAS	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,374	▶ Plamond Energy	\$1,626
POWERSHOP	Powershop	\$1,491	Amber Electric	\$2,236
Single agl	AGL	\$1,508	ReAmped Energy	\$2,395
Energy Australia	EnergyAustralia	\$1,508	GloBird Energy	\$2,403
origin	Origin Energy	\$1,512		

⁴¹ These market offers were collected between 10 July and 1 August 2022 and it should 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.

FIGURE 7 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Sydney households in the Endeavour network with 3kW systems installed and consuming 7,200kWh annum (including both produced and imported), single rate

Energy Locals	Energy Locals	\$1,349	Simply Energy	\$1,566
sumo	Sumo Power	\$1,371	kugan Kogan Energy	\$1,570
red energy	Red Energy	\$1,386	Alinta Energy	\$1,581
POWER & GAS	Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,459	Diamond Energy	\$1,620
POWERSHOP	Powershop	\$1,513	Amber Electric	\$2,193
origin	Origin Energy	\$1,530	ReAmped Energy	\$2,396
Energy Australia	EnergyAustralia	\$1,531	GloBird Energy	\$2,508
\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	AGL	\$1,532		

FIGURE 8 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for solar market offers post July 2022, including discounts and pay on time discounts - households in the Essential network with 3kW systems installed and consuming 7,200kWh annum (including both produced and imported), single rate

Energy Locals	\$1,634	Simply Energy	\$1,866
Red Energy	\$1,695	Alinta Energy	\$1,883
Dodo Power & Gas	\$1,776	kugan Kogan Energy	\$1,886
AGL AGL	\$1,818	▶ Plamond Diamond Energy	\$1,940
Origin Energy	\$1,819	Amber Electric	\$2,565
EnergyAustralia EnergyAustralia	\$1,821	GloBird Energy	\$2,678
Powershop	\$1,832	ReAmped Energy	\$2,879

6. Total cost of energy by area

As approximately 40% of NSW households are connected to both electricity and gas, it is important to analyse whether there are areas that have experienced high increases/decreases in both electricity and gas prices, and conversely, whether there are areas where the increases/ decreases in electricity and gas prices are at the lower end.⁴² Such analysis allows for a more detailed understanding of the total energy costs faced by households across NSW. This year, dual fuel households in western Sydney have received the greatest increases to energy costs as gas prices have increased in by approximately \$90 per annum in the Jemena network combined with an increase of around \$335 in electricity prices in the Endeavour network. Dual fuel households with typical consumption levels across NSW will experience price increases of between \$300 and \$400 per annum.43

5.1 Inner Sydney, Northern Sydney, Swansea, Newcastle, Maitland, Cessnock Singleton and Upper Hunter

In this area, Energy Australia's annual electricity standing offer bill is \$205 more in July 2022 compared to July 2021 (based on households consuming 7,200kWh/annum). Higher gas prices in the Jemena/AGL gas zone also means that annual bills for customers on AGL's gas standing offer have increased by around \$90 per annum (based on households consuming 24,000MJ/ annum).

- Dual fuel households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in inner and Eastern Sydney, Sydney's North, Swansea and Newcastle will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$295 from July 2022.44
- All-electric households in Sydney. Newcastle, Maitland, Singleton, Muswellbrook and the Upper Hunter will typically experience an increase in annual electricity costs of \$245 from July 2022.45



Source: www.ausgrid.com.au

⁴² According to IPART, approximately 40% of all NSW households use gas and in the Sydney metropolitan area approximately 50% of households use gas. IPART, Review of regulated retail prices and charges for gas, Final report, June 2014, p 52

⁴³ Based on the incumbent retailers' standing offers and an annual consumption of 7,000 kWh and 24,000 MJ.

⁴⁴ These are households in Ausgrid's electricity distribution network and Jemena/AGL's gas zone.

⁴⁵ These are households on a two-rate (controlled load) tariff in Ausgrid's electricity distribution network using 8,000 kWh per annum (thereof 30% controlled load).

5.2 Western Sydney, Wollongong, Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Kandos, Moss Vale, Nowra, Ulladulla

In this area, Origin's annual electricity standing offer bill is \$335 more in July 2022 compared to July 2021 (based on households consuming 7,200kWh/ annum). Higher gas prices in the Jemena/AGL gas zone also means that annual bills for customers on AGL's gas standing offer have increased by around \$90 per annum (based on households consuming 24,000MJ/ annum).

- Dual fuel households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in Western Sydney, Wollongong, Blue Mountains and Lithgow will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$425 from July 2022.46
- As gas prices in the Nowra/ Shoalhaven have increased by approximately \$70 per annum. dual fuel households in this area will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$405 from July 2022.47
- All-electric households in Western Sydney, Wollongong, Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Kandos, Moss Vale, Nowra and Ulladulla will typically experience an increase in annual electricity costs of \$315 from July 2022.48



Source: www.endeavourenergy.com.au

⁴⁶ These are households in Endeavour Energy's electricity distribution network and Jemena/AGL's gas zone.

⁴⁷ These are households in Endeavour Energy's electricity distribution network and ActewAGL's Shoalhaven gas zone.

⁴⁸ These are households on a two-rate (controlled load) tariff in Endeavour Energy 's electricity distribution network using 8,000 kWh per annum (thereof 30% controlled load).

5.3 Rural and Regional NSW

In rural and regional NSW, the average annual electricity standing offer bill is \$275 more in July 2022 compared to July 2021 (based on households consumina 7,200kWh/annum). households all-electric (8,000kWh, 30% controlled off peak) the average electricity standing offer has increased by \$260.

Dual fuel households with an average consumption of electricity and gas in Bathurst, Orange, Newcastle and Wollongong will typically experience a \$365 increase to their annual energy costs from July 2022.49



Source: Country Energy, Annual Report 2009-10

- Dual fuel households in Queanbeyan and Bungendore will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$335 from July 2022.50
- Dual fuel households in Goulburn, Boorowa, Yass and Young will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$300 from July 2022.51
- Dual fuel households in Wagga Wagga and Uranquinty will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$415 from July 2022.52
- Dual fuel households in Tamworth will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$370 from July 2022.53
- Dual fuel households in the Murray Valley towns will typically experience an *increase* in annual energy costs of \$390 from July 2022.54
- Dual fuel households in Tumut and Gundagai will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$350 from July 2022.55
- Dual fuel households in Albury, Moama and Jindera will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$370 from July 2022.56
- Dual fuel households in Cooma, Bombala, Temora, Holbrook, Henty, Culcairn and Walla will typically experience an increase in annual energy costs of \$375 from July 2022.⁵⁷

⁴⁹ These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and the Jemena/AGL gas zones.

⁵⁰ These are households in Endeavour Energy's electricity distribution network and ActewAGL's Queanbeyan gas zone.

⁵¹ These are households in Endeavour Energy's electricity distribution network and ActewAGL's Goulburn gas zone.

⁵² These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and Origin Energy's Wagga Wagga gas zone.

⁵³ These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and Origin Energy's Tamworth gas zone.

⁵⁴ These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and Origin Energy's Murray gas zone. 55 These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and Origin Energy's Tumut gas zone.

⁵⁶ These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and Origin Energy's Albury gas zone.

⁵⁷ These are households in Essential Energy's electricity distribution network and Origin Energy's Temora and Cooma gas zone.