

# ACT ANALYSIS OF SMALL BUSINESS RETAIL ENERGY BILLS

KEY FINDINGS FROM ENERGY CONSUMERS AUSTRALIA'S JUNE 2023 SME RETAIL TARIFF TRACKER REPORT



**Electricity** bills were, on average, **18% higher across Australia** for businesses consuming 20,000 kWh compared to a year ago, and were **25% higher in the ACT**.

Meanwhile, **gas** bills were, on average, **22% higher across Australia** for businesses consuming 100 GJ compared to a year ago, and were **21% higher in the ACT**.

## ELECTRICITY BILLS

Average annual **electricity bills** for businesses consuming 20,000 kWh per annum in the ACT are **\$8,445**. This is an increase of \$1,705 (25%) from a year ago.

The average annual **maximum price-spread** is **\$6,865**. This is similar to six months ago (\$6,870).

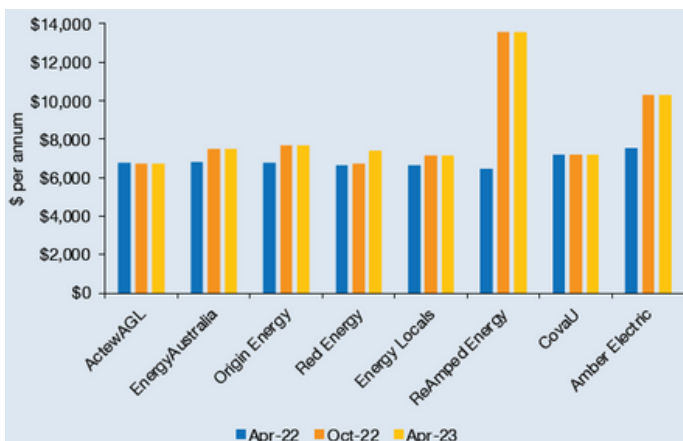


Chart 101: trend of estimated average annual electricity bills in the ACT, since April 2022, for SMEs using 20,000 kWh (single rate). GST inclusive.

## GAS BILLS

Average annual **gas bills** for businesses consuming 100 GJ per annum in the ACT are **\$3,775**. This is an increase of \$645 (21%) from a year ago.

The average annual **maximum price-spread** is **\$1,755**. This is the same as six months ago.

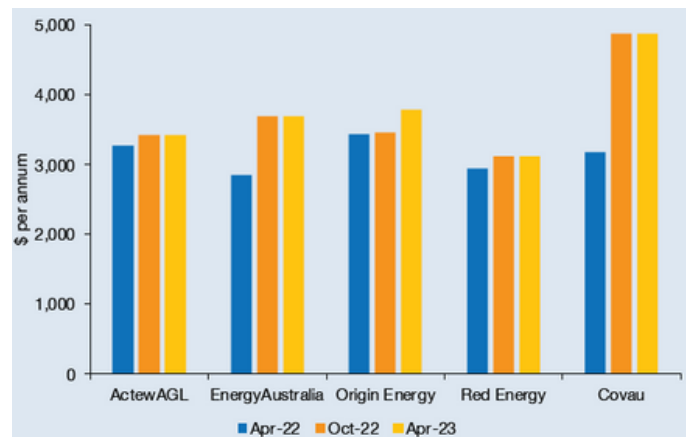
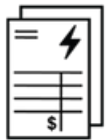


Chart 102: trend of estimated average annual gas bills in the ACT, since April 2022, for SMEs using 100 GJ. GST inclusive.

## WHY IS THERE LESS PRICE VOLATILITY IN THE ACT?

### PRICE REGULATION

The increase in electricity bills in the ACT is due to two outlier offers. Other offers, including from the incumbent retailer ActewAGL, have remained **relatively steady** compared to other jurisdictions.

Electricity **retail prices in the ACT continue to be regulated**. ActewAGL is required to offer the regulated retail price as its standing offer. Last year, the **regulated offer decreased in the ACT** while in most other jurisdictions it increased.

### RENEWABLES

In 2016, the ACT introduced legislation to source **100% renewable electricity by 2020**, a goal they achieved in October 2019. They did this by contracting directly with renewable generators.

While increasing wholesale costs have driven up electricity bills in other jurisdictions, the ACT's legislation has **shielded them from this volatility**.

