



ACT Energy Prices July 2021

An update report on the ACT Tariff-Tracking Project



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May Mauseth Johnston, August 2021

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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 Alvis Consulting Pty Ltd do not accept liability for any action taken based on the information provided in this report or the associated workbooks or for any loss, economic or otherwise, suffered as a result of reliance on the information presented. If you would like to obtain information about energy offers available to you as a customer, go to AER's 'Energy Made Easy' website or contact the energy retailers directly.

Acknowledgments

This project was funded by Energy Consumers Australia (www.energyconsumersaustralia.com.au) as part of its grants process for consumer advocacy projects and research projects for the benefit of consumers of electricity and natural gas.

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

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The ACT Tariff-Tracking project

This project has tracked electricity and gas tariffs in the ACT from July 2009 to July 2021 and developed a spreadsheet-based tool that allows consumer advocates to build on the initial analysis while continuing to track changes as they occur.

To analyse changes to energy costs in the ACT, we assume typical household consumption of 48,000MJ per annum for gas, 6,500kWh per annum in electricity consumption for dual fuel households, and 8,000kWh per annum for all-electric households, thereof 30% off-peak for customers with controlled load (off-peak 1)¹.

We have also developed workbooks that allow the user to enter consumption levels and analyse household bills for regulated electricity and gas market offers from July 2009 to July 2021, as well as published electricity and gas market offers post the price resets in July 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021². A more recent addition to the Tariff-Tracking project is market offers available to new solar customers. The workbook allows users to calculate annual bills based on retailers' rates, feed in tariffs offered and additional discounts. Again, the user can enter consumption level as well as choosing to run the bill calculation based on 1.5 kW or 3 kW solar systems.

Workbook 1: Regulated electricity offers July 2009-July 2021

Workbook 2: Gas offers July 2009-July 2021

Workbook 3: Electricity market offers July 2013-July 2021

Workbook 4: Gas market offers July 2013-July 2021

Workbook 5: Solar offers post July 2016-July 2021

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

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

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1. Gas and electricity consumption for dual fuel households is based on a mix of ICRC figures (see ICRC, Compliance and Performance Report for 2010-11, Licensed Electricity, Gas, Water and Sewerage Utilities, November 2012), ACT Government Canberra Quick Stats 2009-2010 and our own estimates. Note, however, that the Tariff-Tracking tool (the workbooks) is designed so users can insert their own consumption levels.
 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

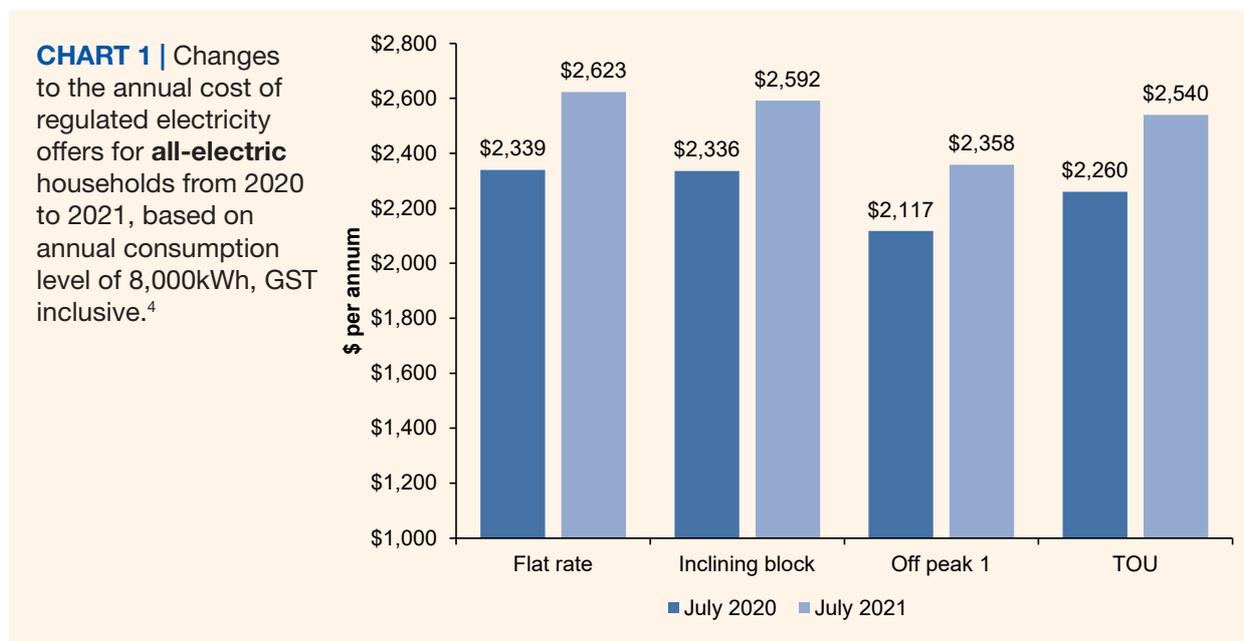
In terms of general trends, the ACT tariff analysis found that:³

- ▲ The annual bill for households on **ActewAGL's regulated rate** (single/flat rate tariff) has typically **increased by \$285, or 12%**, since July 2020. See chart 1 in section 1.
- ▲ Households' annual **gas costs have decreased by \$30**, or 1.6%, since July 2020. See table 1 in section 1.
- ▲ When **combining ActewAGL's regulated electricity rate and gas standing offer**, the total cost of energy, for average consumption households, has **increased by 5% (or \$205)**. See chart 3 in section 1.
- ▲ **The number of retailers offering electricity contracts to households in the ACT continues to increase.** Currently eight retailers, the host retailer ActewAGL, EnergyAustralia, Origin Energy, Red Energy, Energy Locals, Powerclub, Amber Electric and Radian Energy are offering market contracts to residential electricity customers. For gas, there are four retailers in the ACT (ActewAGL, Energy Australia, Origin Energy and Red Energy).
- ▲ A typical consumption household can **save \$810 per annum (31%)** on electricity costs by **switching from the regulated rate to Radian Energy's market offer**. See chart 6 in section 2.1.
- ▲ On average, an **electricity market offer bill (inclusive of discounts) is \$2,170** for households using 8,000 kWh and that is a **rise of \$105, or 5%, since last year** (July 2020). See section 2.1.
- ▲ A typical consumption household can **save \$370 per annum on gas costs by switching from ActewAGL to Energy Australia** (including discounts). See chart 9 in section 2.2.
- ▲ **Electricity customers on the flat rate or a time of use tariff will pay around \$375 per annum in fixed supply charges while customers on the inclining block tariff will pay approximately \$475.** The gas supply charge has decreased by 3.5% since July 2020. ACT households currently pay \$305 per annum in order to be connected to natural gas. See section 3.
- ▲ In July 2021, **electricity Network Use of System (NUOS) charge increased by 13%** and the NUOS currently accounts for 40% of the electricity bill for an average consumption household. See section 4.1.
- ▲ The **gas Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charge decreased by 2%** and the DUOS currently accounts for 23% of the gas bill for an average consumption household. See section 4.2.
- ▲ The **average annual bill is approximately \$1,475 for solar households** with 3kW systems installed. This means that the **average annual bill is \$400 less for solar households with 3kW systems installed compared to non-solar households**. See section 5.
- ▲ Compared to last year (July 2020), the **average market offer for solar customers (3kW systems) has increased by \$230 or 19%**. See section 5.
- ▲ Retailers' FIT rates range from zero to 12 cents per kWh. **A household with a 3kW solar system installed will receive approximately \$355 per annum in FIT credits from ActewAGL, \$285 from EnergyAustralia, \$330 from Origin Energy, \$280 from Red Energy, \$210 from Energy Locals, \$120 from Powerclub, \$180 from Radian Energy and zero from Amber Electric.**

3. These calculations are based on changes to the regulated offer for dual fuel customers using 6,500kWh per annum, changes to the regulated offer for all-electric customers using 8,000kWh per annum (thereof 30% off-peak for customers with controlled off-peak load) and ActewAGL's offers for gas customers using 48,000MJ per annum.

1. Energy price changes from July 2020 to July 2021

Chart 1 below shows increases to the regulated electricity rates from July 2020 to July 2021 for each of the four tariff types. The annual bill for all-electric households with a typical consumption level will range from \$2,360 to \$2,625, depending on the tariff type. Average consumption households on a single/flat rate electricity tariff, will experience an increase of \$285 (12%) to their annual bill.



Gas prices decreased on 1 July 2021. A household using 48,000MJ per annum will have an annual gas bill of \$1,960 which is \$30 less than last year.

Charts 2 and 3 below show changes in electricity and gas costs for dual fuel households. As these households typically use less electricity compared to all-electric households, the increases to the electricity bill will naturally be lower. Typical consumption dual fuel customers can expect an increase of \$200 – \$230 to their annual electricity cost (chart 2). When combining the electricity and gas costs, the total cost of energy, for average consumption households on a single/flat rate electricity tariff, has increased by 5% or \$205 (see chart 3).⁵

4. Thereof 30% off-peak and 70% flat rate for households with controlled load (off-peak 1) and 20% peak, 50% shoulder and 30% off-peak for households on a Time of Use (TOU) tariff.
 5. Based on annual consumption of 6,500kWh on a single/flat rate tariff.

CHART 2 | Changes to the annual cost of regulated electricity offers for **dual fuel** households from 2020 to 2021, based on annual consumption level of 6,500kWh, GST inclusive.⁶



CHART 3 | Changes to the annual cost for **dual fuel** customers and **gas only** from 2020 to 2021, dual fuel based on 6,500kWh (flat rate) and 48,000MJ per annum, GST inclusive.⁷

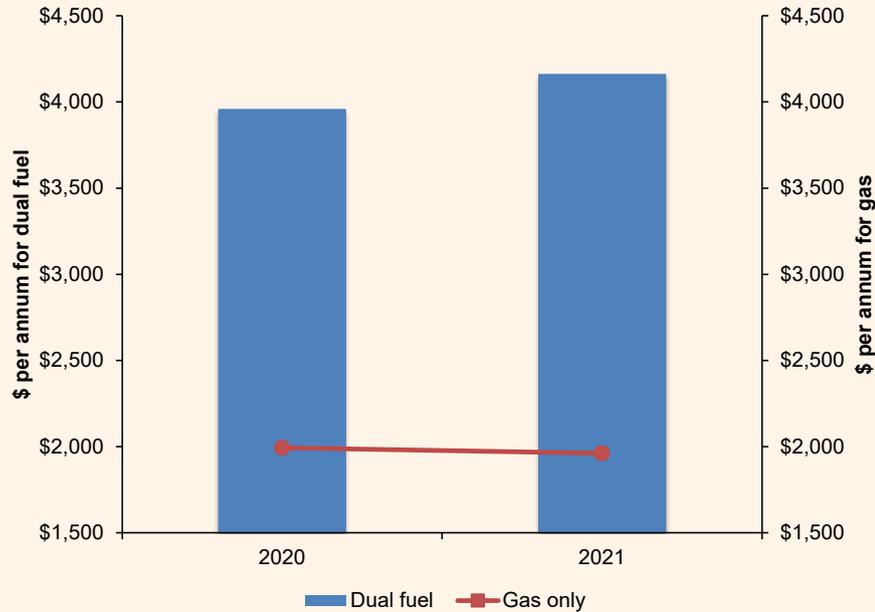


Table 1 below highlights the price trends for electricity and gas offers in the ACT from 2020 to 2021.

TABLE 1 | Electricity (single rate) and gas price changes from July 2020 – July 2021.

	All-electric (8000kWh)	Gas (48,000Mj)	Dual fuel (6,500kWh + 48,000Mj)
\$ Change	\$285	-\$30	\$205
% Change	12%	-1.6%	5%

6. Thereof 30% off-peak and 70% flat rate for households with controlled load (off-peak 1) and 20% peak, 50% shoulder and 30% off-peak for households on a Time of Use (TOU) tariff.

7. Based on ActewAGL's gas rates only.

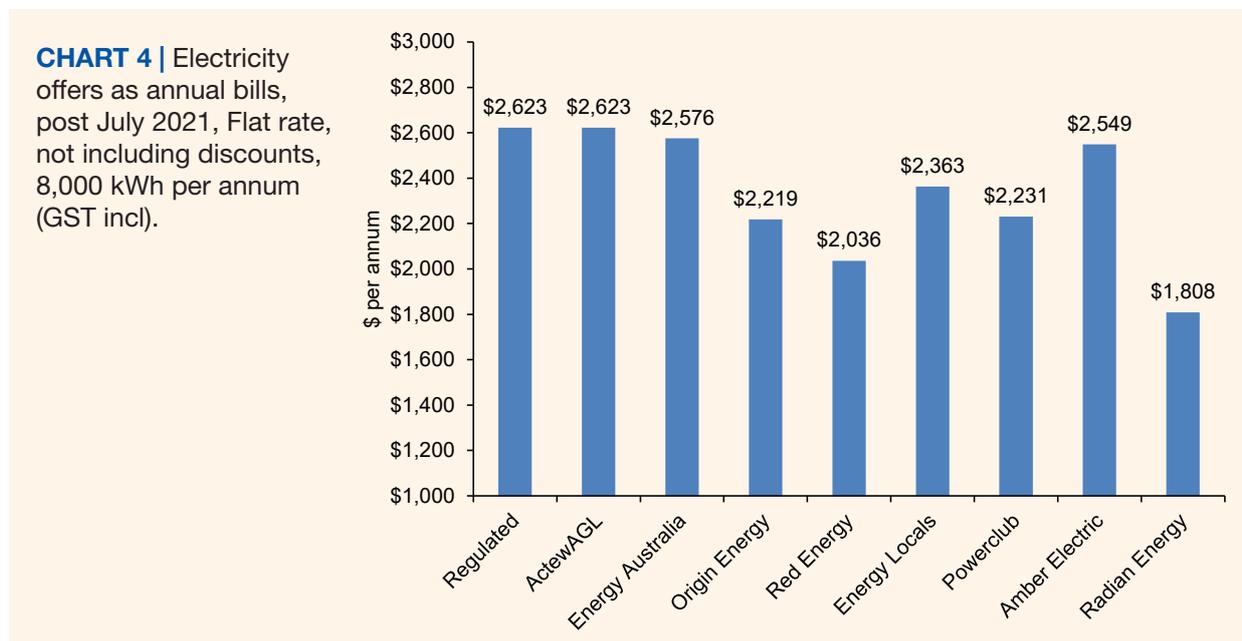
2. Regulated vs. market offers post July 2021

Since the introduction of full retail competition in the ACT energy retail market in 2003, households have been able to choose between regulated and market offers.⁸ There has been a recent increase in retailers offering electricity contracts to households in the ACT. Currently eight retailers, the host retailer ActewAGL, EnergyAustralia, Origin Energy, Red Energy, Energy Locals, Powerclub, Amber Electric and Radian Energy are offering market contracts to residential electricity customers. A majority of customers continues to be with ActewAGL. ActewAGL currently has around 76% of the market share in the ACT residential electricity customer market.⁹ For gas, there are only four retailers in the ACT (ActewAGL, Energy Australia, Origin Energy and Red Energy) and ActewAGL has approximately 78% of the market share.¹⁰

The price-spread (or the maximum difference between offers) has mostly increased over the last five years. In July 2015, ACT households were unable to reduce their electricity bill by switching and the maximum potential saving for gas was \$50 per annum. In July 2016 the potential saving was \$175 for electricity and \$135 for gas. Currently, the maximum potential annual saving is \$740 for electricity (by switching from Amber Electric's market offer to Radian Energy's market offer) and \$370 for gas (by switching from ActewAGL to Energy Australia's offer).¹¹

2.1 Electricity: Regulated vs. market offers post July 2021

Chart 4 below shows that households using 8,000kWh per annum (flat rate) will have an annual electricity bill of between \$1,810 and \$2,625, and that retailers offer lower rates than ActewAGL (when calculated as annual bills and noting that this chart is based on rates prior to additional discounts).



8. Also referred to as franchise customers (those on the regulated rate and non-franchise customers (those on a negotiated market contract). Note that gas retail prices are not regulated.

9. AER, data for the Retail energy market performance update for Quarter 3, 2020-21, Indicators s2.1.ai, s2.2.ai and s2.6. 10. AER, data for the Retail energy market performance update for Quarter 3, 2020-21, Indicators s2.1.bi, s2.2.bi and 2.6.

11. Based on an annual consumption of 8,000 kWh/annum for electricity (single rate) and 48,000 MJ for gas. Market offers inclusive of guaranteed and pay on time discounts. Note regarding Amber Electric: This bill calculation is based on the rates presented in Amber's Basic Plan Information Document (BPID) and as Amber offers wholesale rates (a spot-price passthrough) to its customers, the average wholesale price paid by customers may be lower than the rate used for the BPID.

Chart 5 below shows a similar trend for households with controlled off-peak load.¹²



As stated above, the calculations for the market offers in charts 4 and 5 are based on rates only (cost per kWh and fixed charges) and do not include other market offer features such as discounts on consumption rates, discounts if bills are paid on time and welcome credits.

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, potential fees for exiting the contract early as well as shorter billing cycles.

Chart 6 below shows annual bills after including additional guaranteed discounts and conditional pay on time discounts. It shows that average consumption (8,000kWh) households currently on ActewAGL's regulated rate can save around \$335 per annum by switching to ActewAGL's market offer. Customers switching from the regulated rate to Radian Energy, on the other hand, can save approximately \$810 per annum. On average, a market offer bill (inclusive of discounts) is \$2,170 for households based on the assumed consumption level, which is an increase of \$105, or 5%, since last year (July 2020).

¹². Powerclub and Amber Electric do not offer controlled load tariffs.

CHART 6 | Annual bills including discounts. Electricity offers post July 2021 as annual bills, flat rate, 8,000kWh (GST incl).¹³



The discounts (including pay on time discounts) used to estimate the annual bills for chart 6 above are shown in table 2 below. Table 2 also shows other contract terms and features, such as early termination fees, associated with these market offers. The retailers have multiple market offers and the offers with the best rates/discounts that do not require direct debit arrangements have been included here.

Historically, all retailers have applied discounts to supply and/or usage charges excluding GST. More recently, however, Origin clearly states that their discounts are applied to amounts including GST. Red Energy’s statement is somewhat ambiguous, but we have interpreted it to mean that they also apply discounts to GST inclusive amounts. All other retailers apply discounts to amounts exclusive of GST. There are also three retailers (Energy Locals, Powerclub 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.

13. Calculations include discounts off usage or bill as well as pay on time discounts off usage or bill.

TABLE 2 | Published electricity market offers taking effect after 1 July 2021: Key additional features and contract conditions.

Retailer	Name	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Contract term/benefit period	LPF*	ETF*	Shortened billing cycle [^]	Effective from
ActewAGL	Max Reward	15% off usage	No	12 months	\$15	No	No	1/7/21
Energy Australia	Total Plan Home	12% off bill	No	12 months	\$12	No	No	1/7/21
Origin Energy	Go Variable	No	No	12 months	\$12	No	No	1/7/21
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	No	No	No	\$0	No	No	1/7/21
Energy Locals	Online Member	No	No	No	\$16	No	No	1/8/21
Powerclub	Power Bank Home	No	No	No	\$0	No	Yes	1/7/21
Amber Electric	Amber Plan	No	No	No	\$16	No	Yes	1/7/21
Radian Energy	Grid to Go	No	No	No	\$15	No	Yes	4/5/21

* ETF = Early Termination Fee and LPF = Late Payment Fee

Note that it is often unclear whether retailers actually apply a LPF as information on the retailers' website may be different to their Price and Product Information Statements

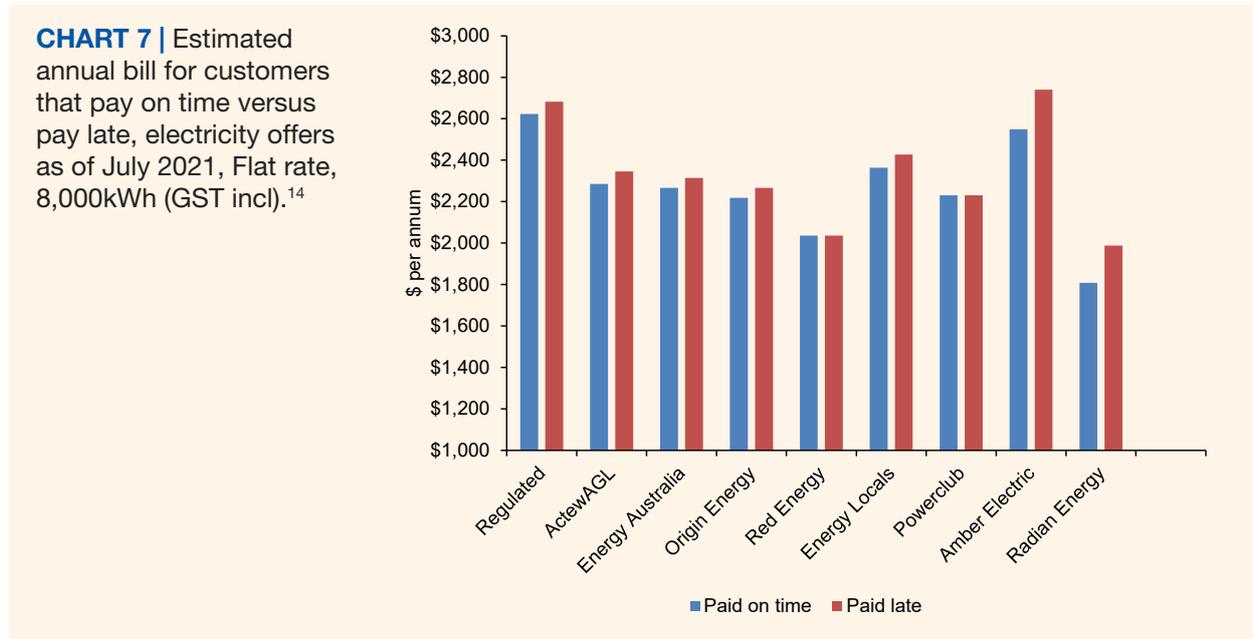
[^] If yes, the offer has a mandatory shortened billing cycle (monthly billing)

Figure 1 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts as well as how they ranked compared to other retailers.

FIGURE 1 | Lowest to highest annual bills (incl GST) for market offers post July 2021, including discounts and pay on time discounts - Households consuming 8,000kWh per annum (single rate).

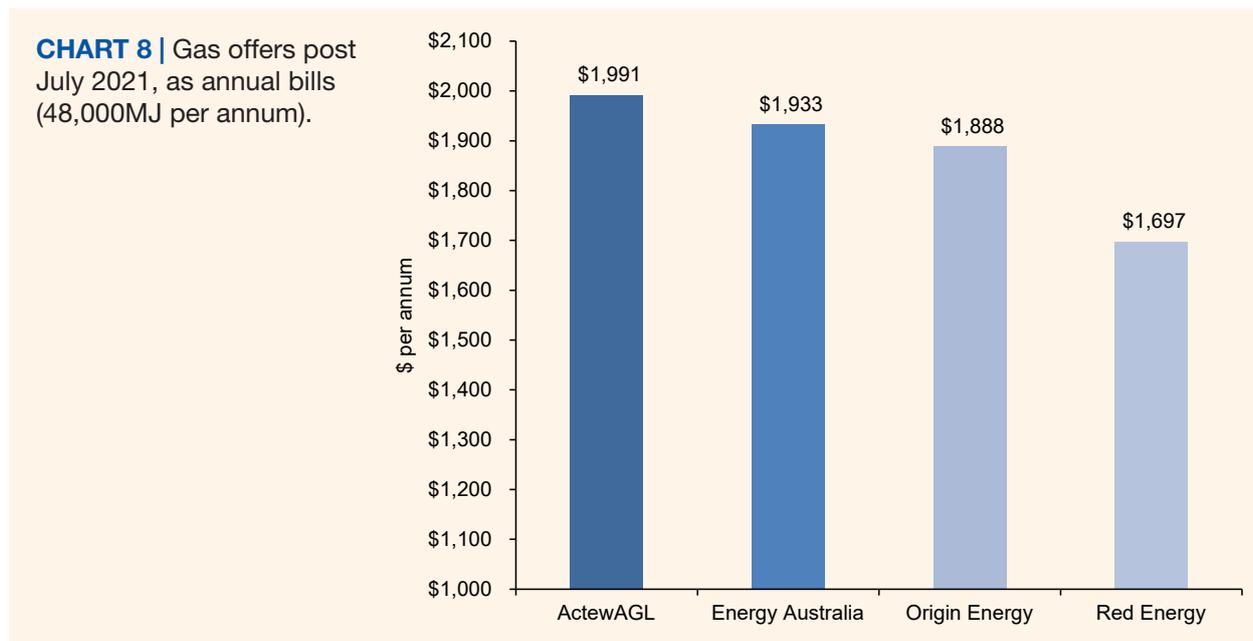
	Radian Energy	\$1,808
	Red Energy	\$2,036
	Origin Energy	\$2,219
	Powerclub	\$2,231
	Energy Australia	\$2,266
	ActewAGL	\$2,286
	Energy Locals	\$2,363
	Amber Electric	\$2,549

In previous years, pay on time discounts have been a common feature of energy market offers across Australia. Pay on time discounts combined with late payment fees also meant that ACT households could be severely penalised for late payment. Since July 2019, however, the size of the pay on time discounts, as well as the number of offers featuring these conditional discounts, have reduced and there are currently no pay on time discounts associated with the retailers' best market offers in the ACT. The maximum difference between bills that are paid on time and bills that are paid late, is currently \$192 per annum. This reflects Amer Electric's offer which includes mandatory monthly billing and a late payment fee of \$16.



2.2 Gas market offers post July 2021

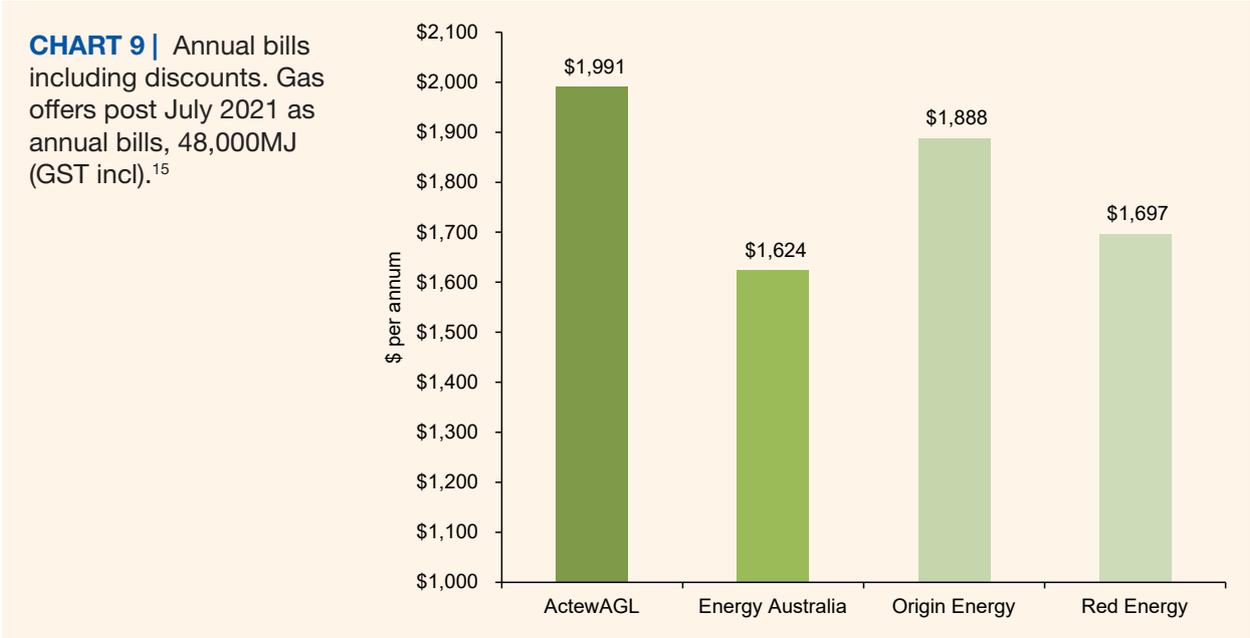
There are no regulated gas offers in the ACT and only Energy Australia, Origin Energy, Red Energy and ActewAGL currently have gas market offers for residential consumers. Chart 8 below shows that Red Energy has the lowest rates (excluding additional discounts) while ActewAGL's rates are highest.



14. Annual bill calculation based on a quarterly or monthly billing cycle (as per table 2) and includes discounts and late payment fees as per energy offer.

However, the calculations for the above market offers are based on their rates only (cost per MJ and fixed charges) and do not include other market offer features such as guaranteed or pay on time discounts. Customers assessing gas market offers should take 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.

Chart 9 below shows annual bills after including additional discounts and pay on time discounts. It shows that households with average consumption (48,000MJ) can save \$370 per annum by switching from ActewAGL to Energy Australia’s market offer.



The discounts used to estimate the annual bills for chart 9 above are shown in table 3 below. Table 3 also shows other contract terms and features, such as early termination fees, associated with these market offers.

TABLE 3 | Published gas market offers post July 2021: Key additional features and contract conditions.

Retailer	Name	Guaranteed discount	Pay on time discount	Contract term/benefit period	LPF*	ETF*	Effective from
ActewAGL [^]	Home Plan	No	No	No	\$15	No	1/7/21
Energy Australia	Total Plan	16% off bill	No	12 months	\$12	No	1/7/21
Origin Energy	Go Variable	No	No	12 months	\$12	No	1/7/21
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	No	No	No	\$0	No	1/7/21

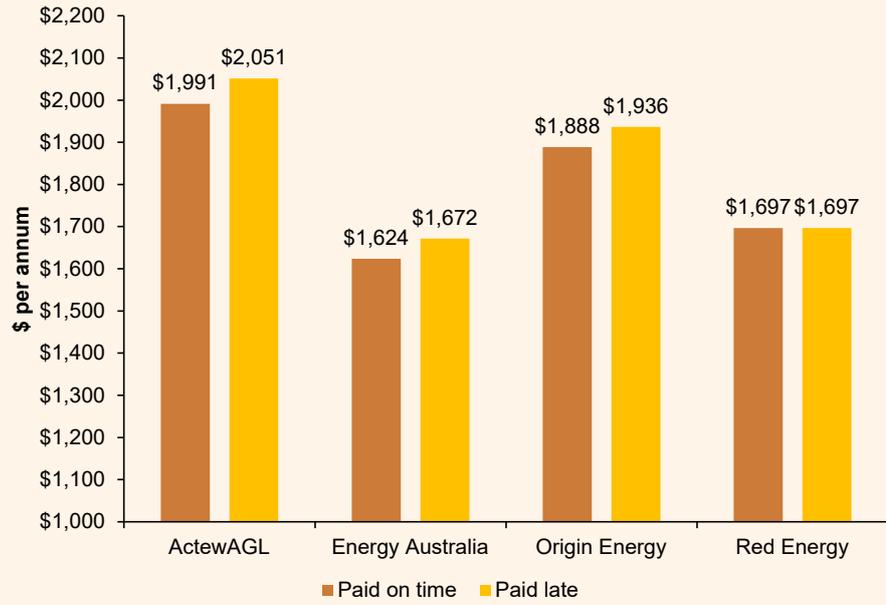
[^]ActewAGL has other gas products that include discounts, however, as these products are offered as dual fuel products only, we have used the Home Plan for this analysis.

* ETF = Early Termination Fee and LPF = Late Payment Fee

As ActewAGL’s offer does not include any additional discounts, and Energy Australia’s market offer has a guaranteed discount, the difference between paying gas bills on time versus late, reflects the late payment fees charged by the retailers only. Chart 10 below shows the estimated annual gas bill for customers that always pay on time versus customers that always pay late.

15. Calculations include discounts off usage or bill as well as pay on time discounts off usage or bill.

CHART 10 | Estimated annual bill for customers that pay on time versus pay late, gas offers post July 2021, 48,000MJ (GST incl).¹⁶



The difference between the best and the worst market offer is significant. Energy Australia’s offer is almost \$370 less than ActewAGL’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 as well as how they ranked compared to other retailers.

FIGURE 2

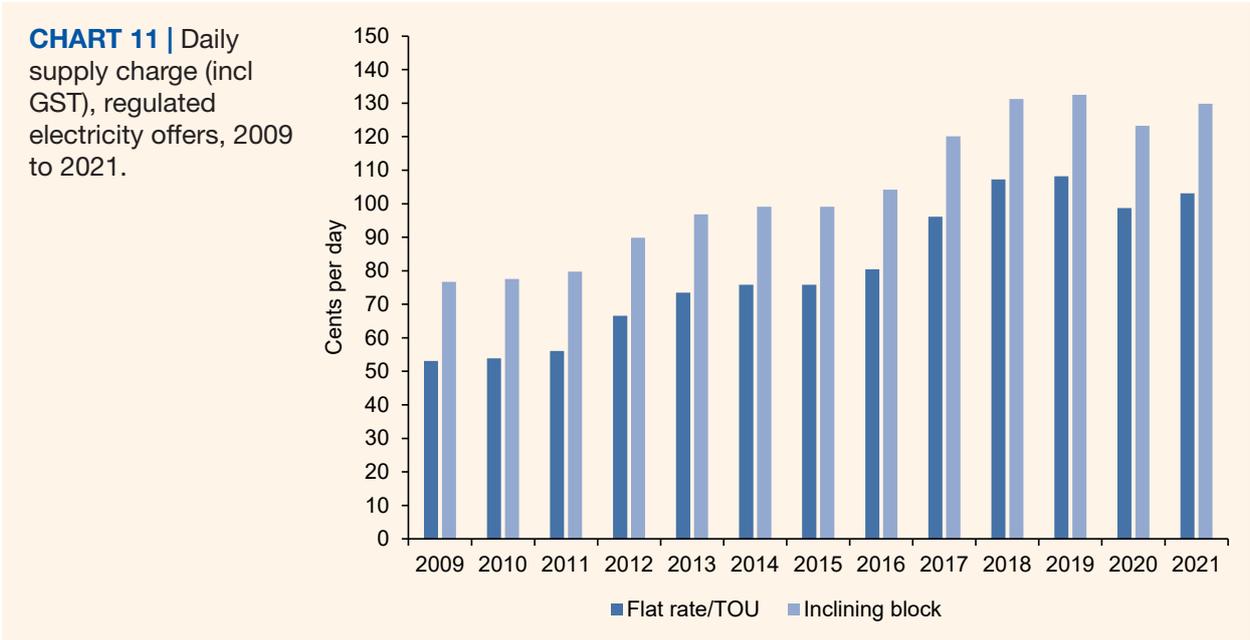
	Energy Australia	\$1,624
	Red Energy	\$1,697
	Origin Energy	\$1,888
	ActewAGL	\$1,991

16. Annual bill calculation includes discounts, pay on time discounts and late payment fees as per energy offer.

3. Supply Charges

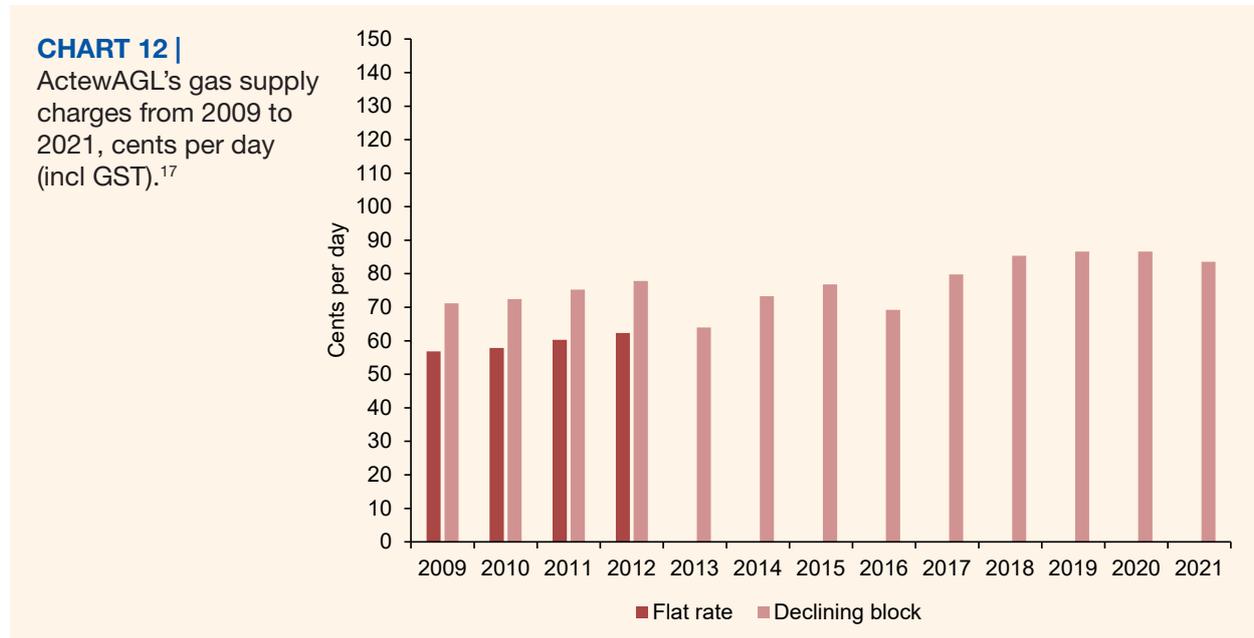
3.1 Electricity supply charges

The supply charge is a fixed daily charge that is paid in addition to the consumption charges for electricity used. In the ACT the supply charge for electricity customers on the flat rate (and the less common TOU rate) has increased by 94% since July 2009, while the overall higher supply charge for the inclining block tariff has increased by around 69%. In the July 2021 price-set the regulated supply charge for flat rate and TOU customers increased by 4.4% compared to last year, and fixed supply charge component of the inclining block tariff increased by 6.6%. Customers on the flat rate or a TOU tariff will pay just over \$375 per annum in fixed supply charges while customers on the inclining block tariff will pay close to \$475. Chart 11 below shows the changes to the daily supply charges for regulated electricity rates from July 2009 to July 2021.



3.2 Gas supply charges

ActewAGL's gas supply charge decreased by 3.5% in July 2021 after having remained unchanged in July 2019 and July 2020. ACT households currently pay \$305 per annum in order to be connected to natural gas. Chart 12 below shows gas supply charges from July 2009 to July 2021.



17. ActewAGL merged their tariff products to a single gas offer in 2013. Note: The declining block tariff was actually an inclining block in 2009 and 2010.

4. Network charges

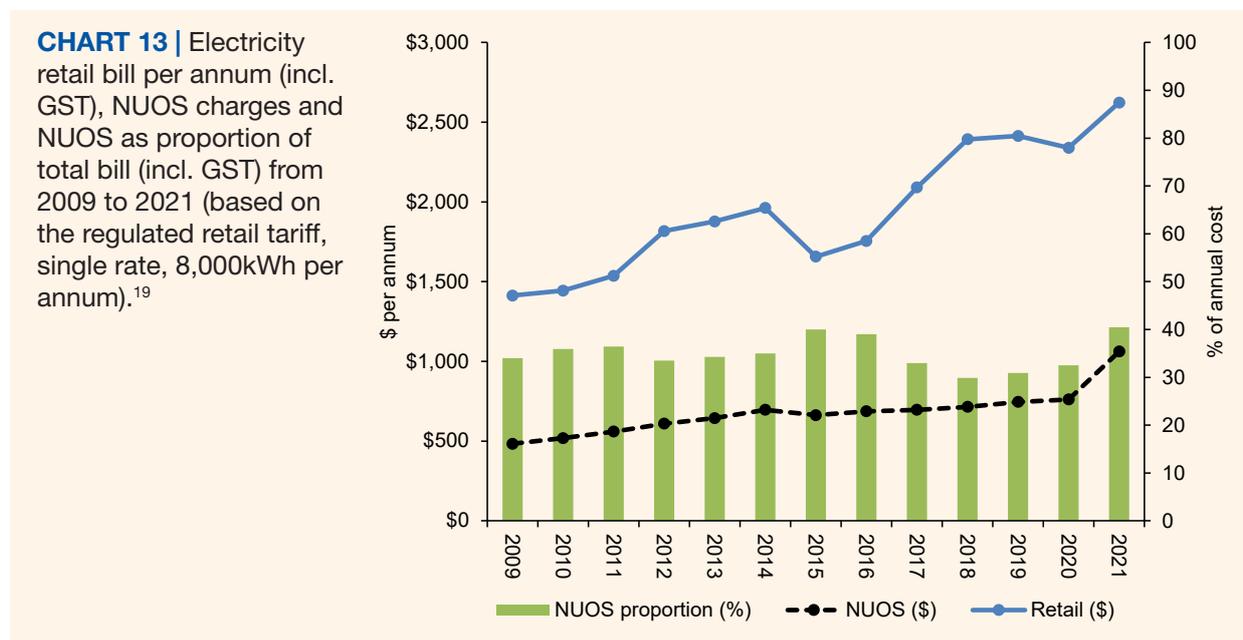
This section examines changes to electricity network charges since 2009 and gas distribution charges since 2020.

4.1 Electricity network charges

The ACT electricity network, Evoenergy, introduces new Network Use of System (NUOS) charges as of 1 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 in some cases, metering charges. The retailers can, and generally will, build changes to the NUOS (in relation to both shape and price) into their market retail tariffs. As the ACT also has a regulated retail offer, the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) also changes the regulated retail rate to reflect changes to the NUOS.

Chart 13 shows annual retail bills (solid line), NUOS charges as annual cost (dotted line) and NUOS as proportion of annual bill (columns).

It shows that both the NUOS charge and the retail bill increased significantly in July 2021 (the NUOS itself increased by approximately 13%) and that the NUOS as a proportion of the bill has gone from 33% to 40%. Since July 2015, the NUOS has included a metering non-capital charge (as part of the fixed supply charge) and if we exclude the metering non-capital charge from the NUOS, the NUOS is \$1,045 per annum in 2021 (instead of the \$1,062 indicated in the chart below).¹⁸



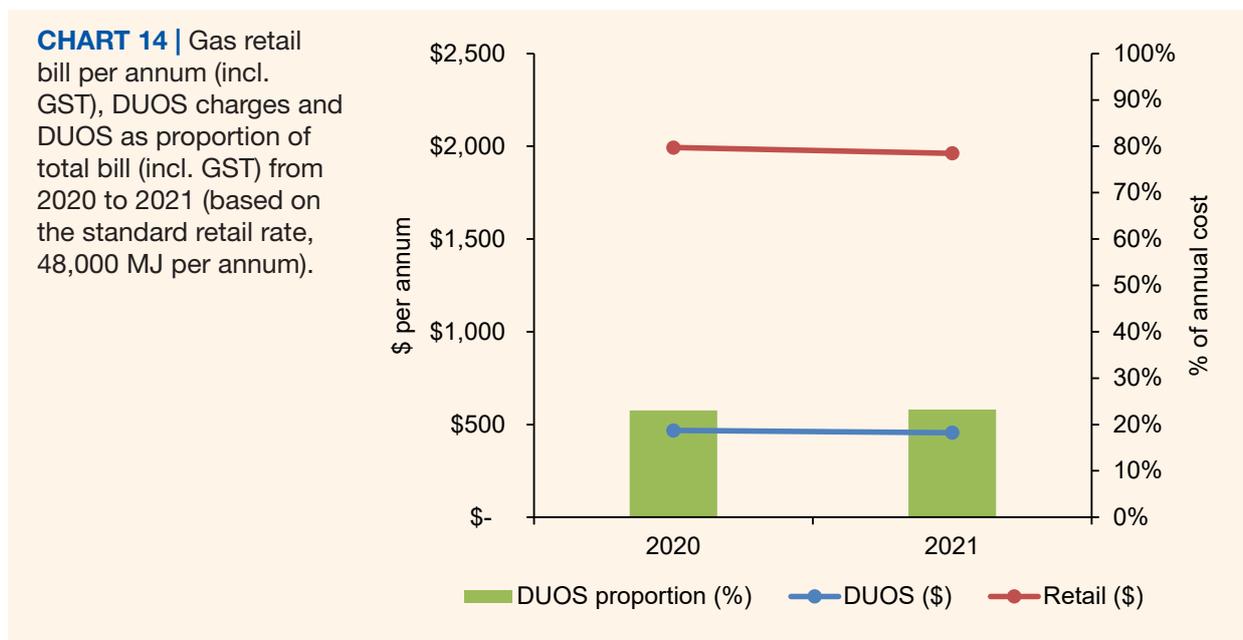
18. Evoenergy has two types of metering charges: the metering non-capital charge (currently 4.56 cents/day) and the metering capital charge (9.27 cents/day). See Evoenergy's Schedule of electricity charges for details about households that pay metering non-capital and/or metering capital charges. Note that the cost of jurisdictional schemes (such as 'green' schemes) are not included in these NUOS charges.

19. Based on the regulated rates from 2009 to 2021, presented as annual bills for households using 8,000kWh per annum (flat rate). The annual NUOS charges have been calculated by allocating 2,000kWh per quarter (again based on annual consumption of 8,000kWh) to the step charges stipulated in the NUOS. The annual NUOS cost also includes fixed charges.

4.2 Gas distribution charges

As for electricity, the ACT gas distributor, EvoEnergy, introduces new Distribution Use of System (DUOS) charges as of 1 July every year. A new addition to the Tariff-Tracking project last year was to analyse changes to gas DUOS charges. In the EvoEnergy network, the current DUOS charge for households using 48,000 MJ is \$456 per annum and it has decreased by 2% since last year (July 2020). The DUOS proportion of gas retail bills has remained the same at 23%.²⁰

Chart 14 shows annual retail bills (red line), DUOS charges as annual cost (blue line) and DUOS as proportion of annual bill (columns).



20. Based on ActewAGL's gas offer as of July 2021. Presented as annual bills for households using 48,000 MJ per annum.

5. Solar offers

There are approximately 32,100 small and medium scale solar systems in the ACT.²¹ Customers looking for solar electricity retail offers should assess both the retailers' Feed in tariff (FIT) rates as well as the cost of electricity imported.

This section analyses and compares market offer bills for ACT customers with 1.5kW and 3kW 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.

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 8,000kWh (including both produced and imported).
- ▲ Calculations have been produced for households with 1.5kW and 3kW systems only.
- ▲ An annual generation capacity per kW installed of 1.801MWh and an export rate of 55.1% for 3kW systems and 27.3% for 1.5kW systems.²²
- ▲ Only FIT rates available to new customers have been included. Retailer funded FIT rates have been applied as per offer (see table 4 below).
- ▲ For tariffs with controlled load, 30% of the total load has been allocated to the off-peak rate.
- ▲ For TOU tariffs, 20% of the load has been allocated to the peak rate, 30% to the off-peak rate and 50% to the shoulder rate.
- ▲ 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.

Table 4 below shows that FIT rates range from zero to 12 cents per kWh. Based on the assumptions listed above, a household with a 3kW solar system installed will receive approximately \$355 per annum in FIT credits from ActewAGL, \$285 from Energy Australia, \$330 from Origin Energy, \$280 from Red Energy, \$210 from Energy Locals, \$120 from Powerclub, \$180 from Radian Energy and zero from Amber Electric.

21. Clean Energy Council, Clean Energy Australia Report 2021, 74.

22. These figures are based on NSW (outside Sydney) and were used for the analysis presented in a report for the Alternative Technology Association (ATA) by Alvis Consulting (Alvis Consulting, Retail Offers and Market Transparency for New Solar Customers, June 2013). As the data is based on NSW it might assume slightly higher generation capacity than the ACT average. The Clean Energy Council has reported that average daily production for 3kW systems in Canberra is 12.9 kWh and (6.45 kWh for 1.5 kW systems). See www.solarchoice.net.au/blog/how-much-energy-will-my-solar-cells-produce/. Note that the estimated annual solar energy generation has a loss factor of 20% applied (includes temperature losses, soiling losses and wiring losses), the insolation is based on annual averages from the BOM over the years 1990 to 2008 (available at www.bom.gov.au/jsp/ncc/climate_averages/solar-exposure/index.jsp), and it is assumed that solar panels are mounted with a tilt equal to the latitude angle of the location (for non-capital city areas these are Port Augusta, Longreach, Swan Hill and halfway between Dubbo and Bourke). The estimated export rates are based upon generation and export in NSW published in report prepared for NSW Industry and Investment by AECOM Australia, Solar bonus scheme, Forecast NSW PV Capacity and Tariff Payments, October 2010 available at [http://23.101.218.132/prod/la/latabdoc.nsf/0/f43c91f5b4eddb97ca2577c90020a9fa/\\$FILE/Solar%20Bonus%20Scheme%20-%20Forecast%20PV%20Capacity%20&%20Tariff%20Payments.pdf](http://23.101.218.132/prod/la/latabdoc.nsf/0/f43c91f5b4eddb97ca2577c90020a9fa/$FILE/Solar%20Bonus%20Scheme%20-%20Forecast%20PV%20Capacity%20&%20Tariff%20Payments.pdf)

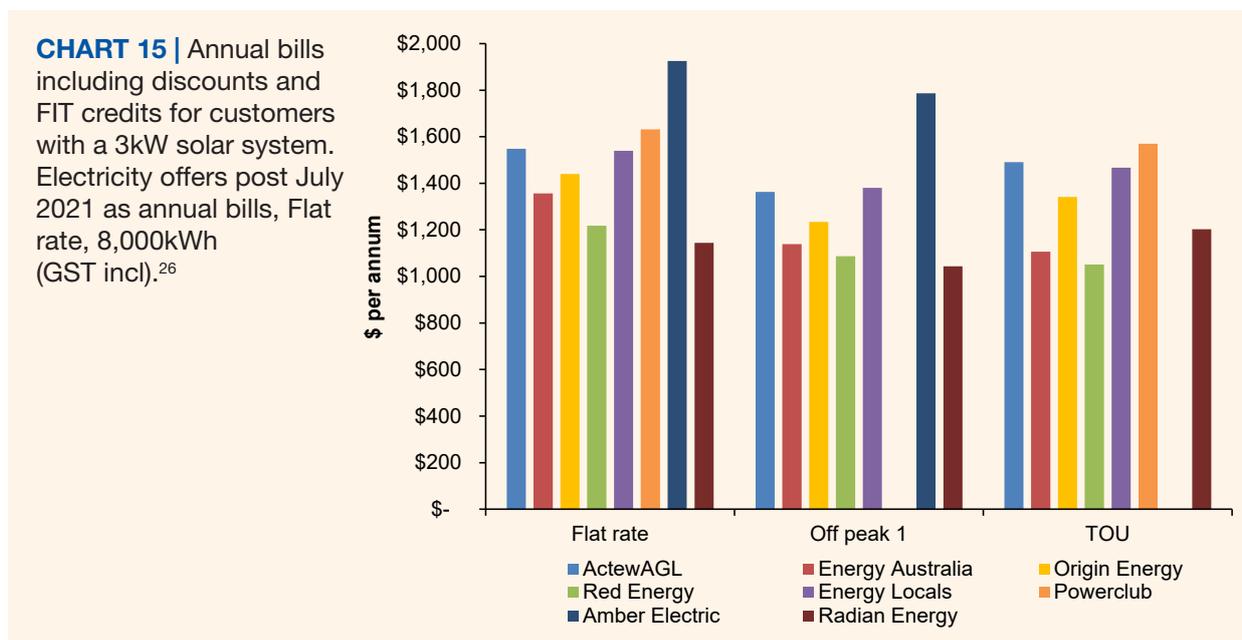
TABLE 4 | Retailers' FIT rates as of July 2021

Retailer	Offer	FIT rate (c/kWh)
ActewAGL	Solar Advantage	12*
EnergyAustralia	Total Plan Home	9.5
Origin Energy	Solar Boost	11
Red Energy	Living Energy Saver	9.4
Energy Locals	Online Member	7
Powerclub	PowerBank Home Solar	4
Amber Electric	Amber Plan	0
Radian Energy	Grid to Go	6

* For the first 8 kWh exported each day. Export after that attracts a 7c FIT.

The average annual bill is approximately \$1,475 for households with 3kW systems and \$1,770 for households with 1.5kW systems installed. This means that the average annual bill is around \$400 less for solar households with 3kW systems installed compared to non-solar households (see section 2.1 above).²³ Compared to last year, the average market offer for solar customers (3kW systems) has increased by \$230 or 19%.²⁴ This is in stark contrast to the previous year (from July 2019 to July 2020) when the average annual solar bill decreased by \$75.

Based on the assumptions outlined above, solar customers on a flat electricity rate with a 3kW system installed would pay approximately \$780 less per annum on Radian Energy's offer compared to Amber Electric's offer (see chart 15).²⁵



23. This comparison is based on the average market offer for non-solar customers (inclusive of discounts) and the average market offer for solar customers (inclusive of discounts) using 8,000kWh per annum (flat rate).

24. For non-solar households, the increase is \$105 or 5%. See section 2.1.

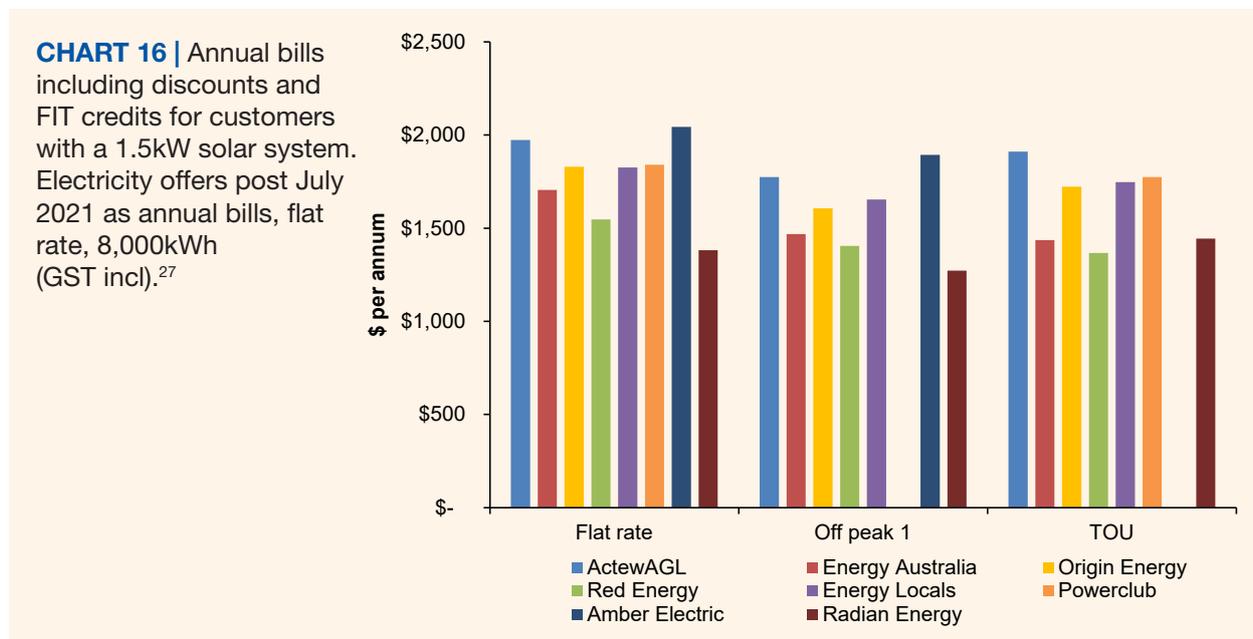
25. Note regarding Amber Electric: This bill calculation is based on the rates presented in Amber's Basic Plan Information Document (BPID) and as Amber offers wholesale rates (a spot-price passthrough) to its customers, the average wholesale price paid by customers may be lower than the rate used for the BPID.

26. Calculations include discounts off usage or bill as well as pay on time discounts off usage or bill.

Figure 3 below shows estimated annual bills for market offers post discounts as well as how they ranked compared to other retailers.

	Radian Energy	\$1,145
	Red Energy	\$1,218
	Energy Australia	\$1,356
	Origin Energy	\$1,440
	Energy Locals	\$1,540
	ActewAGL	\$1,548
	Powerclub	\$1,632
	Amber Electric	\$1,925

Households with the same consumption level and a 1.5kW system installed can expect to receive approximately \$90 in FIT credits per annum from ActewAGL, \$70 from EnergyAustralia, \$80 from Origin Energy, \$70 from Red Energy, \$50 from Energy Locals, \$30 from Powerclub, \$45 from Radian Energy and zero from Amber Electric. Amber Electric' annual bill is the most expensive and Radian Energy is the least expensive (based on the assumptions outlined above). The difference between these two offers is approximately \$205 per annum (see chart 16).



27. Calculations include discounts off usage or bill as well as pay on time discounts off usage or bill.