

# Queensland Competition Authority

Monitoring report

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## Solar feed-in tariffs in south- east Queensland 2022–23

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October 2023

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## OVERVIEW

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Solar feed-in tariffs are the prices that electricity retailers pay to customers with solar PV systems who export surplus electricity to the electricity network. In south-east Queensland (SEQ), retailers set the amount customers will receive for exports.

The Queensland Government has directed us to report on solar feed-in tariffs (feed-in tariffs) offered to residential and small business customers in SEQ on an annual basis. This report is our seventh annual report and covers the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

### Key findings

- The number of retailers offering retail plans with feed-in tariffs decreased in 2022–23. Across retail plans for residential and small business customers, the number of retailers offering feed-in tariffs in SEQ decreased from 38 in the June quarter of 2022 to 25 in the June quarter of 2023.
- Average residential feed-in tariffs in SEQ increased slightly in 2022–23. By the June quarter of 2023, the average tariff offered was 5.9 c/kWh (up from 5.7 c/kWh in the June quarter of 2022). The residential single feed-in tariffs ranged from 1.0 to 10.0c/kWh in the June quarter of 2023.
- Retailers in SEQ offered retail plans with different combinations and levels of feed-in tariffs, supply and usage charges, discounts, incentives and recurring fees. These differences resulted in a wide range of bills across different retailers and, in some cases, across a retailer's own plans.
- Retail plans with the highest feed-in tariffs did not deliver the lowest net bills for every customer. Customers who had low consumption and a low solar export ratio<sup>1</sup> were generally better off with plans that had lower supply and usage charges. Customers who had high consumption and a high export ratio were generally better off with plans that had higher feed-in tariffs and lower usage charges.
- Across a range of electricity import and solar export scenarios, AGL, Alinta Energy, GloBird Energy, Mojo Power, Origin Energy, Ovo Energy and Sumo Power had the cheapest retail plans for residential customers in 2022–23. Alinta Energy, Blue NRG and QEnergy had the cheapest plans for small business customers.

### Advice for customers

We recommend that you compare retail electricity plans by using the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) Energy Made Easy website. It is free to use, is independent of commercial third parties and includes all generally available plans in the SEQ market.

When you compare plans, it is critical to consider not just the feed-in tariff, but also the amount of electricity you use, the times of the day that you use the most electricity, and all other aspects of plans.

For plans that are only available to customers purchasing solar PV systems through the retailer (or a third party), you also need to carefully consider the cost of purchasing the system, and any other terms and conditions related to the purchase.

### More information

For more information on this report, phone us on (07) 3222 0555 or make an enquiry on our [website](#).

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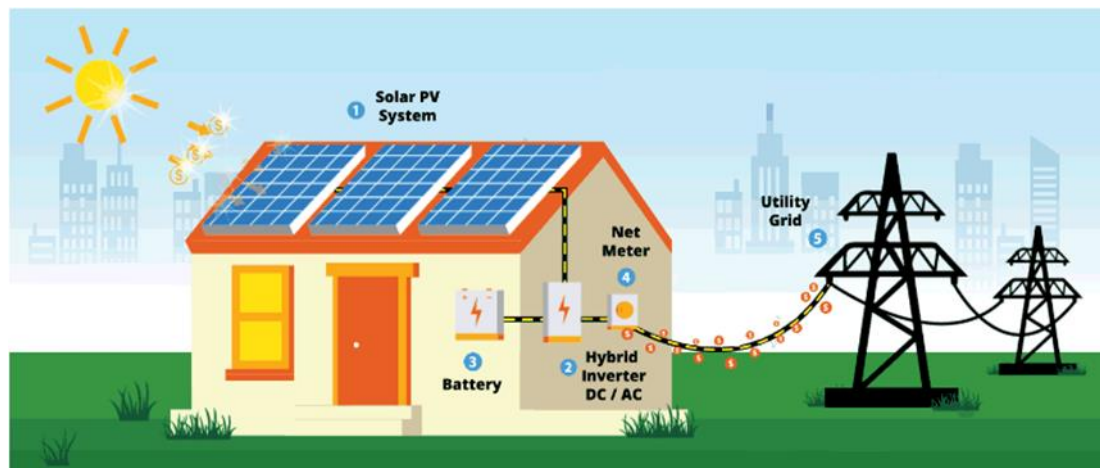
<sup>1</sup> The solar export ratio is measured as the annual amount of solar exports divided by the annual amount of electricity imports. Section 3.2.1 outlines the ratios we used in this report.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Solar feed-in tariffs

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems generate electricity at the customer's home or business premises. Solar customers use the energy they generate from their solar PV system first, with surplus energy being exported to the grid or stored in battery systems to be used later. If a customer's PV system produces more electricity than the premises is using, the surplus electricity can be exported, or 'fed in', to the electricity network. Figure 1 shows how a simple solar PV system works.

**Figure 1 Solar PV system**



*Note: Batteries are optional add-ons that can store surplus electricity generated by solar PV systems.  
Source: R Metaye, [How Do Solar Panels Work Step-By-Step \(Solar Science Explained\)](#), 13 February 2023, Climatebiz website, 2023, viewed 24 February, 2023.*

Solar feed-in tariffs are the prices that the retailers pay customers for these exports. Retailers make these payments because other customers import the electricity that customers with solar PV systems export, which reduces the amount of electricity that retailers must buy on the wholesale energy market.

Over 790,000 homes and small businesses in Queensland already have solar PV systems. Overall, Queensland has the highest rate of household rooftop solar installations of all the states, with around one in three Queensland households having a solar PV system.<sup>2</sup> Battery penetration is also increasing, albeit off a low base.

## 1.2 Monitoring and reporting in SEQ

Retail electricity prices for residential and small business customers in SEQ were deregulated by the Queensland Government on 1 July 2016. The government has since directed us to monitor and report on feed-in tariffs in the SEQ retail electricity market. The direction requires us to report on feed-in tariffs that were available to customers in the preceding financial year (monitored on a quarterly basis) and to publish the report by 31 October each year.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Queensland Government, [Queensland's renewable energy target](#), Department of Energy and Public Works website, 2023, viewed 1 September 2023.

<sup>3</sup> The direction notice is available on our [website](#).

### 1.3 Components of a customer's bill

Retail electricity plans for customers with solar PV systems typically have four elements:

- fixed supply charge(s)—which generally cover infrastructure and metering costs associated with the electricity network as well as retail costs, and are usually charged on a cents per day (c/day) basis
- variable usage charge(s)—which cover the cost of imported electricity, variable retail and variable network costs, and are generally charged on a cents per kilowatt hour (c/kWh) basis
- discounts, fees and other charges—which often have various terms and conditions attached to them
- feed-in tariff(s)—the prices paid to customers with solar PV systems for electricity that they export to the network.

Customers can maximise the value of their solar PV system by considering the combined effect of each element of a retail electricity plan, not just the feed-in tariff. In this way, they can also reap the benefits of retail competition.

Solar feed-in tariffs are not set at the same level as the variable usage charges on retail electricity plans. This is because retailers only avoid some of their normal business costs when they buy energy from customers with solar PV systems—that is, they avoid the costs of purchasing wholesale energy from generators and energy losses. But retailers still incur most of their normal business costs (retail operating costs and network charges) and consequently they would incur a loss if they offered a feed-in tariff equal to their variable usage charge. A 'one-for-one' feed-in tariff would require the retailer to subsidise customers who export energy generated by their solar PV system; the cost of a subsidy would then need to be recovered through higher electricity prices for all customers.<sup>4</sup>

### 1.4 Retail competition and feed-in tariffs

In SEQ, feed-in tariffs are set by retailers.<sup>5</sup> Customers in the SEQ retail electricity market can access a wide range of solar feed-in tariffs. This is because retailers in the competitive SEQ market use various pricing strategies to recover costs and target different customer segments. Such strategies result in a combination of supply, usage, and feed-in tariff rates that are generally bespoke to each individual retailer.

Higher feed-in tariffs in a competitive market may be a form of product differentiation aimed at attracting customers who export a lot of solar. In this instance, the offered feed-in tariff is bundled with other prices. Higher feed-in tariffs are sometimes offered along with restrictions or other charges that are also higher, for example:

- other terms and conditions, such as limits on the size of a customer's solar PV system, or a lower feed-in tariff applied after a certain period

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<sup>4</sup> For more detail on why feed-in tariffs cannot be set at the same level as the retail price of electricity, see Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC), *Solar feed-in pricing in Queensland* [final report], 2016, pp 36–38 (particularly figure 17). Chapter 7 of the QPC report also discusses equity issues that can arise if solar feed-in tariffs exceed market rates. Also see Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, *Solar feed-in tariff benchmark 2020–21* [final report], 2020, p 6.

<sup>5</sup> SEQ refers to the area of Queensland covered by the Energex distribution network. In regional Queensland (the area of Queensland covered by the Ergon and Essential Energy distribution networks), where there is limited competition, the QCA sets the feed-in tariff each year. Our reports on the regional Queensland feed-in tariff are available on our website at [Solar feed-in tariffs](#).

- higher supply and/or usage charges attached to solar offers than non-solar offers (for retailers with solar and non-solar offers)
- for market contracts, extra fees and charges, which are not applicable to standing offer contracts (e.g. late payment fees, credit card fees and paper bill fees).<sup>6</sup>

Customers should be mindful that the feed-in tariff is only one component of an electricity bill—the revenue received from solar exports should be viewed in conjunction with the associated supply and usage charges, as well as other fees, charges, discounts and financial incentives that may be attached to the plan.

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<sup>6</sup> Section 22A of the National Energy Retail Law (NERL) limits the types of fees that standing offer (standard contract) customers in Queensland can be charged. A retailer can only charge a historical billing data fee for data that is more than two years old, the retailer's administration fee for a dishonoured payment, and a financial institution fee for a dishonoured payment.

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## 2 FEED-IN TARIFFS

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In this chapter, we discuss:

- the lowest, highest and average feed-in tariffs between retailers
- trends in relation to retailers' feed-in tariffs in and during the reporting period (2022–23) and preceding financial years
- the emergence of new and/or innovative feed-in tariff structures.

### Key findings

- The number of retailers offering retail electricity plans with solar feed-in tariffs decreased in 2022–23, with 25 retailers offering feed-in tariffs in the June quarter of 2023, down from 38 in the June quarter of 2022.
- Average single feed-in tariffs offered to residential customers increased slightly in 2022–23, from 5.5 c/kWh in the September quarter of 2022 to 5.9 c/kWh in the June quarter of 2023. The feed-in tariffs ranged from 1.0 to 10.0 c/kWh in 2022–23.
- Average single feed-in tariffs offered to small business customers also slightly increased in 2022–23, from 5.7 c/kWh in the September quarter of 2022 to 6.0 c/kWh in the June quarter of 2023. The feed-in tariffs ranged from 3.0 to 8.0 c/kWh in 2022–23.
- The highest feed-in tariffs offered to residential and small business customers in 2022–23 were part of a two-part feed-in tariff: For the first 14kWh a day, AGL offered residential customers 15 c/kWh, and Origin Energy offered small business customers 18 c/kWh. After this threshold was reached, both retailers' feed-in tariffs reduced to 5 c/kWh.
- No new or particularly innovative feed-in tariff structures emerged in 2022–23.

### 2.1 Data sources

#### Retailer feed-in tariff and plan data

For our analysis of feed-in tariffs and bills, we obtained information on retailers' retail electricity plans in 2022–23 from Energy Made Easy. Our analysis does not incorporate the Queensland Solar Bonus Scheme feed-in tariff, which is a legacy feed-in tariff of 44 c/kWh that is not available to new customers.<sup>7</sup>

#### Consumption and solar export data

We have calculated net bill positions for customers for a range of consumption and solar export levels. These consumption and solar export levels are based on metering information provided to us by Energex. We consider this the most appropriate data to use, as it is derived from the same data used to generate actual customer bills in SEQ.<sup>8</sup>

Our analysis is based on electricity consumed from and exported to the grid and does not include electricity that customers generate for their own use.

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<sup>7</sup> Queensland Government, *Solar Bonus Scheme 44c feed-in tariff*, Queensland Government website, last updated: 6 March 2018, viewed 24 February 2023.

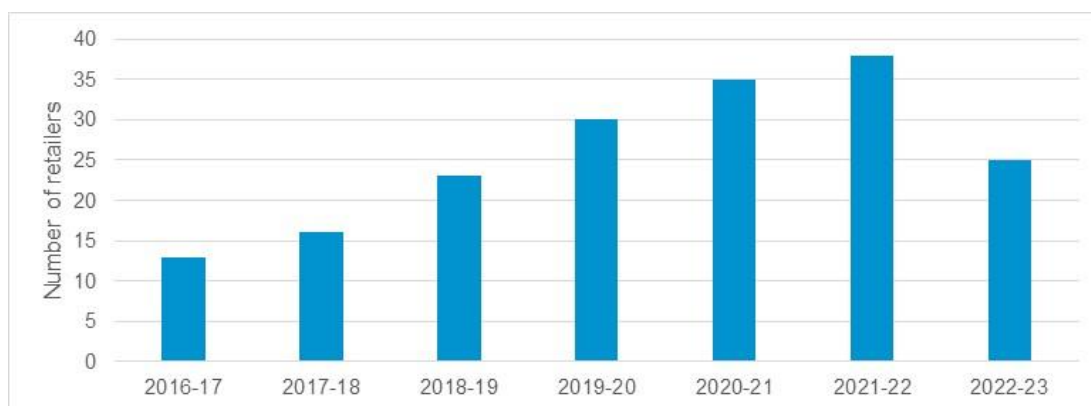
<sup>8</sup> Tables 10 to 13 in section 3.2 show the consumption levels and export ratios used in our bill analysis.



## 2.2 Number of retailers with feed-in tariffs

The number of retailers offering plans with feed-in tariffs to residential and small business customers in SEQ decreased in 2022–23, with 25 retailers offering such plans in the June quarter of 2023 (see Figure 2). Retailers that did not have plans with feed-in tariffs for residential and small business customers anymore in the June quarter of 2023 compared to the June quarter of 2022 are Circular Energy, Discover Energy, Electricity in a Box, Elysian Energy, Enova Energy, Future X Power, GEE Energy, Glow Power, Locality Planning Energy, People Energy, Powerclub, Powerdirect<sup>9</sup>, ReAmped Energy and Smart Energy. Some of these retailers did offer a feed-in tariff during the course of 2022–23. A new retailer that provided feed-in tariffs this year was Ampol Energy.

**Figure 2 Number of retailers offering feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2016–17 to 2022–23**



Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

As in previous years, some retailers did not offer plans with feed-in tariffs to both residential customers and small business customers. For example, Ampol Energy, Dodo Power & Gas, Electricity in a Box, GloBird Energy, Kogan Energy, Mojo Power, Nectr, Ovo Energy, Radian Energy, Social Energy and Tango Energy only offered residential plans with feed-in tariffs, while Blue NRG and Enova Energy only offered small business plans with feed-in tariffs.

## 2.3 Lowest, highest and average feed-in tariffs in 2022–23

### 2.3.1 Residential plans with a single feed-in tariff

The single feed-in tariffs offered to residential customers in SEQ ranged from 1.0 to 10.0 c/kWh in 2022–23. Table 1 shows the average, highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs offered to residential customers in SEQ during each quarter of 2022–23.

**Table 1 Average, highest and lowest residential single feed-in tariffs by quarter, 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Feed-in tariff	September quarter	December quarter	March quarter	June quarter
Highest	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Average <sup>10</sup>	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.9
Lowest	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

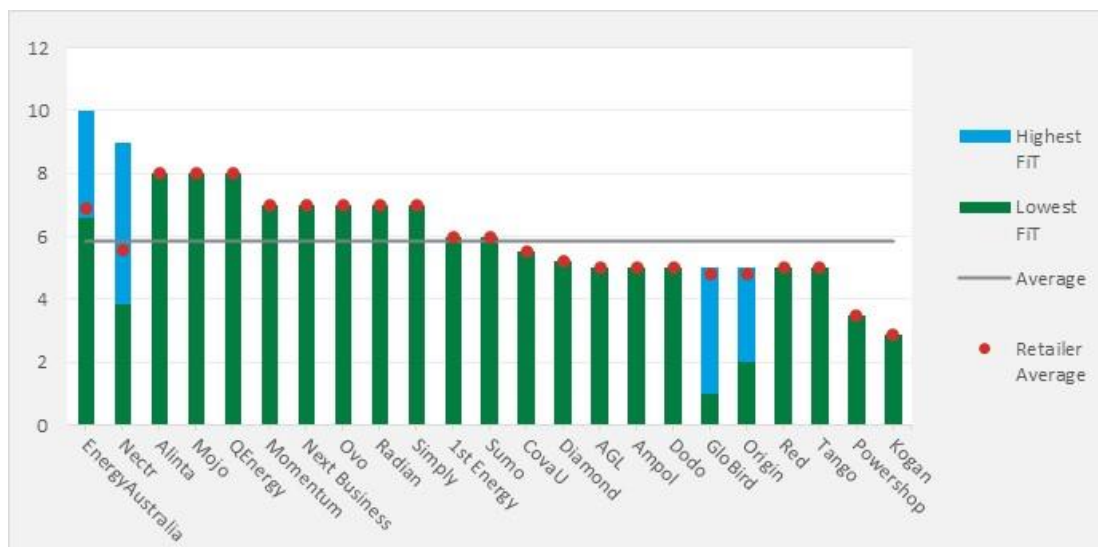
Notes: A detailed table with single feed-in tariffs by retailer for each quarter of 2022–23 is included in appendix B. Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

<sup>9</sup> Powerdirect customers were transferred into AGL.

<sup>10</sup> To calculate the average feed-in tariff, we first calculated the simple average of feed-in tariffs on each retailer's portfolio of plans (excluding plans with no feed-in tariff attached), and then calculated the simple average of all of the retailers' average feed-in tariffs.

Figure 3 shows retailers' highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs for residential customers in the June quarter of 2023, and the average single feed-in tariff in that quarter (5.9 c/kWh).

**Figure 3 Residential single feed-in tariffs by retailer, June quarter 2023 (c/kWh)**



Note: Retailers are arranged by their highest single feed-in tariff (in descending order). Appendix B shows the residential single feed-in tariffs by retailer in each quarter of 2022–23.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

EnergyAustralia offered the highest single feed-in tariff during the financial year and in the June quarter. The average feed-in tariff offered to residential customers increased over the course of 2022–23, from 5.5 c/kWh in the September quarter to 5.9 c/kWh in the June quarter.

### 2.3.2 Small business plans with a single feed-in tariff

The single feed-in tariffs offered to small business customers ranged from 3.0 to 8.0 c/kWh in 2022–23. Table 2 shows the average, highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs offered to small business customers in SEQ during each quarter of 2022–23.

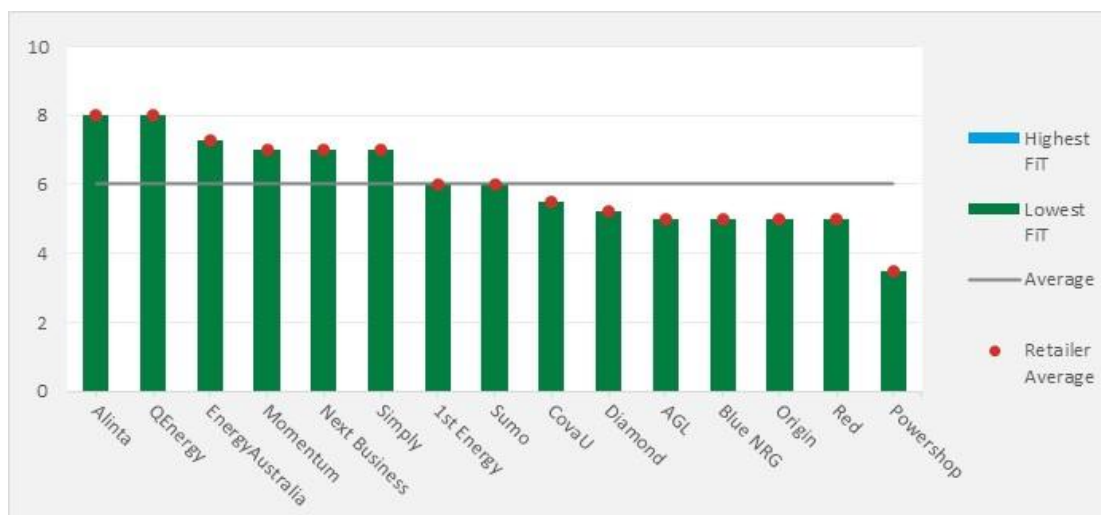
**Table 2 Average, highest and lowest small business single feed-in tariffs by quarter, 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Feed-in tariff	September quarter	December quarter	March quarter	June quarter
Highest	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Average <sup>11</sup>	5.7	5.6	5.6	6.0
Lowest	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.5

Notes: A detailed table with single feed-in tariffs by retailer for each quarter of 2022–23 is included in appendix B. Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

Figure 4 shows retailers' highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs for small business customers in the June quarter of 2023 compared to the average feed-in tariff in that quarter (6.0 c/kWh).

<sup>11</sup> To calculate the average feed-in tariff, we first calculated the simple average of feed-in tariffs on each retailer's portfolio of plans (excluding plans with no feed-in tariff attached), and then calculated the simple average of all of the retailers' average feed-in tariffs.

**Figure 4 Small business single feed-in tariffs by retailer, June quarter 2023 (c/kWh)**

Note: Retailers are sorted by their highest feed-in tariff (in descending order). Appendix B shows the small business single feed-in tariffs by retailer in each quarter of 2022–23.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

Alinta Energy and QEnergy offered the highest single feed-in tariffs during the financial year and in the June quarter of 2023 (8.0 c/kWh). None of the retailers had any variation in their highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs—neither in the June quarter of 2023, nor during the rest of 2022–23. The average feed-in tariff offered to small business customers increased over the course of 2022–23, from 5.7 c/kWh in the September quarter to 6.0 c/kWh in the June quarter.

### 2.3.3 Residential and small business plans with two-part feed-in tariffs

Some retailers offer plans that include two feed-in tariffs, where the first feed-in tariff applies to a particular export threshold and the second feed-in tariff applies to exports above that threshold. Over the course of 2022–23, nine retailers had residential and/or small business plans with two feed-in tariffs (Table 3).

**Table 3 Two-part feed-in tariffs by retailer, 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	Residential plans			Small business plans		
	First feed-in tariff	Daily export threshold (kWh)	Second feed-in tariff	First feed-in tariff	Daily export threshold (kWh)	Second feed-in tariff
AGL	15 10	14 14	5 5	—	—	—
Energy Locals	10.2	10	6	10.2	10	6
EnergyAustralia	10	15	6.6	—	—	—
Enova Energy	6	5	3	—	—	—
GloBird Energy	11	10	4	—	—	—
Origin Energy	12 10 8	14 14 14	5 5 5	18 8	14 14	5 5
Ovo Energy <sup>a</sup>	14	10.95	7	—	—	—
Red Energy	11.5	5	5	11.5	5	5
Sumo Power	12	5	7	—	—	—

<sup>a</sup> Ovo Energy's export threshold was listed as 4,000 kWh over the year.

Notes: Not all retailers included in the table offered plans with two feed-in tariffs in every quarter of 2022–23. A dash (—) means the retailer did not offer a plan with two feed-in tariffs in 2022–23.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

## 2.4 Insights and trends

As more retailers entered the SEQ retail electricity market over the past few years, there was a substantial increase in the number of retailers offering residential plans with feed-in tariffs (from 13 in the June quarter of 2017 to 38 in the June quarter of 2022) and small business plans with feed-in tariffs (from 11 in the June quarter of 2017 to 33 in the June quarter of 2022). However, 2022–23 witnessed a contraction in the number of retailers as some retailers exited the market or ceased to take on new customers. Along with the decrease in the number of retailers, the number of retailers with feed-in tariffs decreased too. The number of retailers offering residential plans with feed-in tariffs decreased to 24 in the June quarter of 2023, and the number of retailers offering small business plans with feed-in tariffs decreased to 16 in the June quarter of 2023.<sup>12</sup>

There were some differences between the feed-in tariffs available on residential plans and those available on small business plans in the June quarter in each of the last seven years. In particular:

- The highest feed-in tariffs available on residential plans were generally higher than those available on small business plans.
- The lowest feed-in tariffs available on residential plans were generally lower than or equal to those available on small business plans.
- The average feed-in tariff was marginally lower for residential plans compared to the average for small business plans for three of the last six years, including 2022–23, with the average feed-in tariff for residential plans and small business plans being equal in 2016–17 (see Tables 4 and 6).

### 2.4.1 Residential plans

#### Single feed-in tariffs

In recent years, single residential feed-in tariffs have declined, with the average feed-in tariff declining from 10.5 c/kWh in 2017–18 to 5.7 c/kWh in 2021–22 and slightly increasing to 5.9 c/kWh in 2022–23. The range between the highest and lowest feed-in tariffs did not change materially between 2017–18 and 2020–21. The range compressed in 2021–22 and again in 2022–23, as shown in Table 4.

Table 4 shows the average, highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs in the June quarters of 2016–17 to 2022–23, and the number of retailers that offered plans with a residential feed-in tariff.<sup>13</sup>

**Table 4 Residential single feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2016–17 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Feed-in tariff	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Highest	11	20	20	18	15	12	10
Average <sup>14</sup>	6.7	10.5	9.9	8.5	6.8	5.7	5.9
Lowest	4	6	6	3	1	2	1
Number of retailers with a single feed-in tariff	13	16	22	27	31	35	23

Sources: *Energy Made Easy*; QCA analysis.

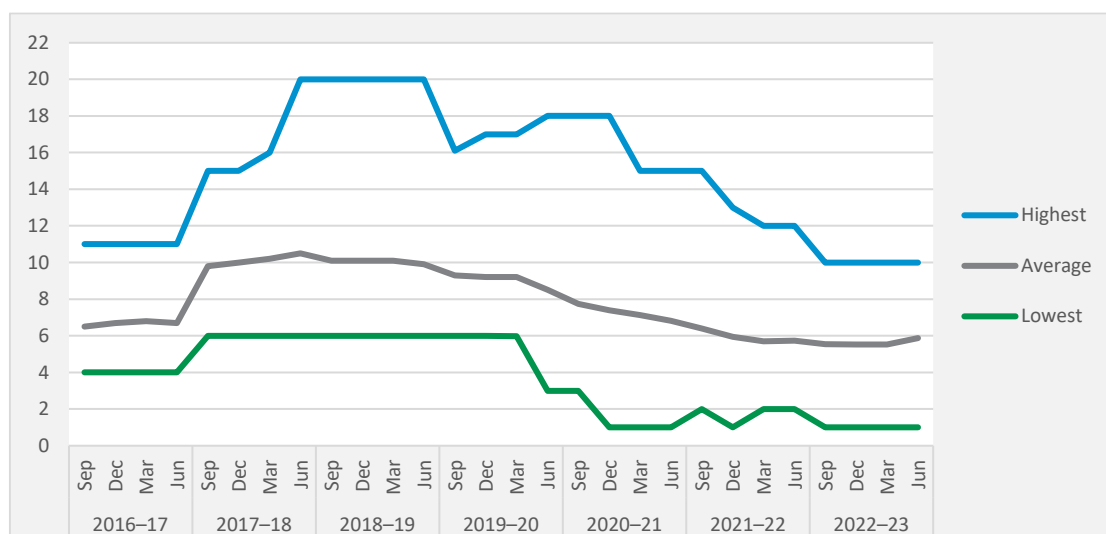
<sup>12</sup> The number of retailers includes retailers providing single feed-in tariffs and/or two-part feed-in tariffs.

<sup>13</sup> Appendix C shows the feed-in tariffs available in all four quarters of each year from 2016–17 to 2022–23. Data for 2015–16 is available in our 2019–20 solar feed-in tariff report.

<sup>14</sup> The averages have been updated for 2017–18 (from 11 to 10.5 c/kWh) as well as for 2018–19 (from 10.7 to 9.9 c/kWh) to exclude Mojo Power's and Red Energy's two-part feed-in tariffs.

On a quarterly basis, there has been more variation in the highest single feed-in tariff compared to the lowest feed-in tariff. Figure 5 shows single feed-in tariffs from the September quarter of 2016 to the June quarter of 2023.

**Figure 5 Residential single feed-in tariffs by quarter, 2016–17 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**



Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

### Two-part feed-in tariffs

Over time, more retailers have started to offer two-part feed-in tariffs, which have a second, lower feed-in tariff that applies once a customer exceeds a pre-set export threshold. Two-part feed-in tariffs first emerged in 2017–18, and over the last six years, the first feed-in tariff on these plans has generally been close to, or above, the highest feed-in tariff available on plans with a single feed-in tariff. The second feed-in tariff on these plans is lower and has generally been closer to the average single feed-in tariff. Table 5 shows the available two-part feed-in tariffs in the June quarters of 2017–18 to 2022–23.

**Table 5 Residential two-part feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2017–18 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
AGL	—	—	—	—	—	15   5
Discover Energy	—	—	—	16   10	16   10	—
Energy Locals	—	—	16   10	—	—	10.2   6
EnergyAustralia	—	—	—	—	—	10   6.6
Enova Energy	—	—	—	10   6	6   3	—
GEE Energy	—	—	—	—	11   5	—
GloBird Energy	—	—	—	—	—	11   4
Mojo Power	20   9	20   9	—	—	—	—
Origin Energy	—	—	15   7	—	10   5	12   5
Ovo Energy	—	—	—	—	—	14   7
ReAmped Energy	—	—	—	17   5	—	—
Red Energy	—	17   11.5	16.1   10	15   8	11.5   5	—
Sumo Power	—	—	—	—	12   7	12   7

Note: A dash (—) means the retailer did not attach a two-part feed-in tariff to its plan(s) in the SEQ market or did not have any plans in the market. The first number is the first feed-in tariff and the second number is the second part of the two-part feed-in tariff.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

## 2.4.2 Small business plans

### Single feed-in tariffs

Single small business feed-in tariffs have declined, with the average feed-in tariff falling from 10.2 c/kWh in 2017–18 to a low of 5.6 c/kWh in 2021–22 followed by a slight increase to 6.0 c/kWh in 2022–23. The range between the highest and lowest feed-in tariffs has decreased materially since 2018–19. In 2022–23, the highest feed-in tariff further decreased and the lowest feed-in tariffs increased. Table 6 shows the average, highest and lowest single feed-in tariffs for small business customers in the June quarters of 2016–17 to 2022–23, as well as the number of retailers that offered plans with a feed-in tariff.<sup>15</sup>

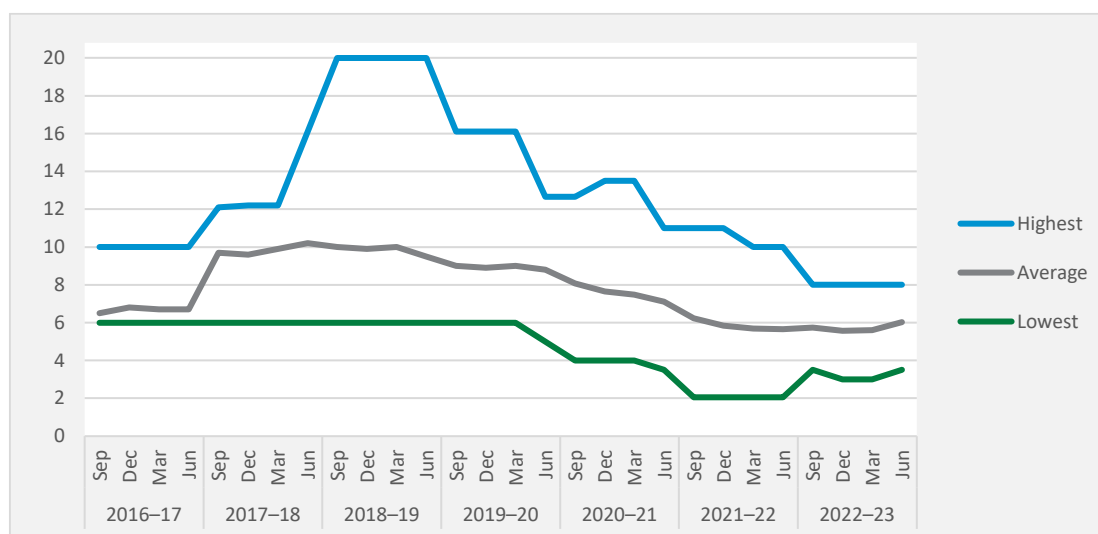
**Table 6 Small business single feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2016–17 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Feed-in tariff	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Highest	10	16.1	20	12.65	11	10	8
Average <sup>16</sup>	6.7	10.2	9.5	8.8	7.1	5.6	6.0
Lowest	6	6	6	5	3.5	2.05	3.5
Number of retailers with a single feed-in tariff	11	13	18	23	29	32	15

Sources: *Energy Made Easy*; QCA analysis.

On a quarterly basis, there has been more variation in the highest feed-in tariff compared to the lowest feed-in tariff. Figure 6 shows small business feed-in tariffs from the September quarter of 2016 to the June quarter of 2023.

**Figure 6 Small business single feed-in tariffs by quarter, 2016–17 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**



Sources: *Energy Made Easy*; QCA analysis.

### Two-part feed-in tariffs

As with residential plans, only a small number of retailers have offered small business plans with two feed-in tariffs. This type of plan has been offered over the last five years—no retailers offered small business plans with two-part feed-in tariffs in 2016–17 and 2017–18. Over this time, the range between the first and second feed-in tariff has compressed, and both the first and second

<sup>15</sup> See Appendix C for information on feed-in tariffs in each quarter of 2016–17 to 2022–23.

<sup>16</sup> The average for 2018–19 has been updated (from 10 to 9.5 c/kWh) to exclude Red Energy's two-part feed-in tariffs.

feed-in tariff have trended lower. Table 7 shows the available two-part tariffs in the June quarters of 2018–19 to 2022–23.

**Table 7 Small business two-part feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2018–19 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Energy Locals	—	—	16   8.5	—	10.2   6
Origin Energy	—	20   7	19   6	18   5	8   5
Red Energy	17   11.5	16.1   10	15   8	11.5   5	—

*Note: A dash (—) means the retailer did not attach a two-part feed-in tariff to its plan(s) in the SEQ market or did not have any plans in the market. The first number is the first feed-in tariff and the second number is the second part of the two-part feed-in tariff.*

*Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.*

## 2.5 New and/or innovative feed-in tariff structures

While a small number of new tariff structures and plans have emerged in SEQ since the retail electricity market was deregulated, no new or innovative feed-in tariff structures emerged in 2022–23. However, based on our analysis of retailers' market offers on Energy Made Easy in 2022–23, some recent trends continued, including:

- differentiation in the pricing structures of solar market offers compared to non-solar market offers—solar plans with higher feed-in tariffs sometimes had higher daily supply charges<sup>17</sup> and/or usage charges<sup>18</sup>
- increased use of eligibility criteria—some plans imposed solar-specific eligibility requirements; for example, the customer had to have a maximum or minimum solar system size to access the plan<sup>19</sup>
- use of two-part tariffs—more retailers offered plans with two feed-in tariffs in 2022–23.

<sup>17</sup> Some retailers' solar offers may have had higher daily supply charges because solar metering charges were included in that charge.

<sup>18</sup> For example, AGL's Residential Solar Savers plans had the same or higher feed-in tariffs, supply charges and usage charges than any of AGL's other plans.

<sup>19</sup> For example, AGL, Dodo Power & Gas and Simply Energy offered at least one plan during 2022–23 that had requirements in relation to solar system size.

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## 3 BILL ANALYSIS OF RETAIL ELECTRICITY PLANS WITH FEED-IN TARIFFS

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In this chapter, we discuss:

- variations to retailers' generally available market offer prices that were offered in conjunction with a feed-in tariff, including variations to fixed and variable electricity charges
- the net overall bill position from generally available market offers, considering electricity charges and feed-in tariffs.

### Key findings

- Bills varied between retailers and also between different plans with feed-in tariffs that individual retailers offered. These variations were generally because of differences in supply and usage charges, discounts and incentives.
- The plans with the highest feed-in tariffs were not always the best option for every customer, particularly if a customer had a low export ratio.
- Customers with a low import level and low export ratio were generally better off with plans that had lower supply and usage charges. These plans generally had lower feed-in tariffs.
- Customers with a high export level and high export ratio were generally better off with plans that included higher feed-in tariffs and lower usage charges. It was not uncommon for these plans to have higher supply charges.

### 3.1 Bills for plans with feed-in tariffs, excluding solar feed-in tariff credits

#### 3.1.1 Methodology

Our analysis provides bill value ranges for each retailer's plans with a feed-in tariff.<sup>20</sup> The bill calculations exclude the impact of solar exports so that the variations in bills (either between different retailers' plans or within a retailer's plans) can be attributed to supply charges, usage charges, discounts, membership fees and fees to access wholesale prices.

The bill analysis in this section is based on a customer with a solar PV system—with typical consumption—on the most common tariffs and tariff combinations. The median consumption level of customers in SEQ with a solar PV system is used to represent a typical level of consumption.<sup>21</sup>

We determined the most common tariffs and tariff combinations by analysing (unpublished) Energex data on the number of national metering identifiers for solar customers on each Energex network tariff. Table 8 lists the most common network tariffs and tariff combinations, with the network tariff codes shown in brackets.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> While the terms of reference only requires us to report on generally available market offer prices, we report on generally available market offers and standing offers that provided customers a feed-in tariff (that is, both market offers and standing offers). This is the approach we have taken in previous years, which we consider provides a more complete report on the options available to customers with solar PV systems.

<sup>21</sup> Data (unpublished) provided by Energex.

<sup>22</sup> Energex, *Historic pricing publications* [2022–23 pricing publications], Energex website, n.d., viewed 31 August 2023.



**Table 8 Most common tariffs and tariff combinations for solar customers in SEQ**

Customer type	Network tariff(s)
Residential	Residential flat rate (T8400) Residential flat rate (T8400) and controlled load super economy (T9000) Residential flat rate (T8400) and controlled load economy (T9100)
Small business	Business flat rate (T8500)

Source: Energex data (unpublished); QCA analysis.

### 3.1.2 Annual bills without feed-in credits

In 2022–23, most retailers in the SEQ market offered at least one retail electricity plan with a feed-in tariff. Some of these retailers had significant differences in the supply charges, usage charges, discounts, incentives and recurring fees (that is, membership fees and fees to access wholesale prices) attached to their plans. These differences led to significant variances in bills across retailers and even within individual retailers.

Our analysis shows that typical bills in the June quarter of 2023 ranged from:

- \$1,440 (GloBird Energy) to \$3,449 (Radian Energy) for residential customers on a flat rate tariff
- \$1,576 (Sumo Power) to \$3,639 (Radian Energy) for residential customers on a flat rate with super economy controlled load tariff combination
- \$1,556 (Sumo Power) to \$3,356 (Radian Energy) for residential customers on a flat rate with economy controlled load tariff combination
- \$1,772 (QEnergy) to \$2,521 (Momentum Energy) for small business customers on a flat rate tariff.

Table 9 shows each retailer's highest and lowest bills for retail plans with feed-in tariffs attached—but excluding feed-in tariff credits or revenue—for the June quarter of 2023 for residential and small business customers.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> The bills are based on the plans that were available on Energy Made Easy in the June quarter of 2023. Where a retailer's plan had a solar metering charge listed as a fee on Energy Made Easy, it has been included in our bill analysis. A spreadsheet containing all plans, including all supply and usage charges, is available on our website.

**Table 9 Annual bill variations (excluding solar feed-in tariff credits) for residential and small business customers, June quarter 2023 (\$)**

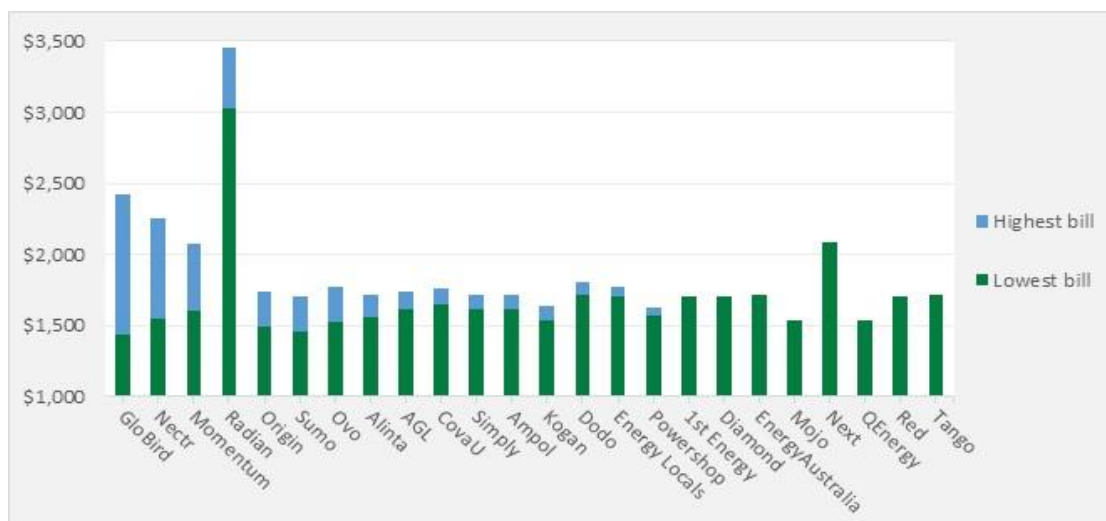
Retailer	Residential flat rate			Residential flat rate with super economy controlled load			Residential flat rate with economy controlled load			Small business flat rate		
	Lowest	Highest	Difference*	Lowest	Highest	Difference*	Lowest	Highest	Difference*	Lowest	Highest	Difference*
1st Energy	1,706	1,706	0	1,765	1,765	0	1,789	1,789	0	2,017	2,017	0
AGL	1,612	1,742	130	1730	1,863	133	1,688	1,821	132	1,970	2,094	124
Alinta Energy	1,558	1,712	154	1,654	1,817	163	1,620	1,780	160	1,799	2,135	336
Ampol Energy	1,612	1,712	100	1,718	1,818	100	1,685	1,785	100	—	—	—
Blue NRG	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,794	2,225	431
CovaU	1,647	1,763	116	1,768	1,890	122	1,759	1,881	122	2,005	2,453	448
Diamond Energy	1,702	1,702	0	1,762	1,762	0	1,721	1,721	0	1,933	1,933	0
Dodo Power & Gas	1,719	1,809	90	1,805	1,968	162	1,778	1,940	163	—	—	—
Energy Locals	1,706	1,776	70	1,836	1,896	60	1,792	1,852	60	1,965	2,313	348
EnergyAustralia	1,717	1,717	0	1,804	1,804	0	1,784	1,784	0	1,925	2,026	101
GloBird Energy	1,440	2,424	985	1,632	2,573	940	1,589	2,506	918	—	—	—
Kogan Energy	1,533	1,632	99	1,646	1,745	99	1,624	1,723	99	—	—	—
Mojo Power	1,536	1,536	0	1,628	1,628	0	1,590	1,590	0	—	—	—
Momentum Energy	1,599	2,071	471	1,708	2,207	499	1,669	2,158	490	1,899	2,521	622
Nectr	1,551	2,252	701	1,633	2,371	738	1,612	2,341	729	—	—	—
Next Business Energy	2,083	2,083	0	—	—	—	2,133	2,133	0	2,374	2,374	0
Origin Energy	1,491	1,743	253	1,601	1,861	260	1,561	1,818	257	1,924	2,088	165
Ovo Energy	1,529	1,771	242	1,633	1,886	252	1,590	1,838	248	—	—	—
Powershop	1,570	1,632	62	1,744	1,744	0	1,723	1,723	0	2,049	2,049	0
QEnergy	1,536	1,536	0	1,628	1,628	0	1,590	1,590	0	1,772	1,772	0
Radian Energy	3,023	3,449	426	3,189	3,639	450	3,116	3,556	440	—	—	—
Red Energy	1,707	1,707	0	1,821	1,821	0	1,778	1,778	0	2,049	2,049	0
Simply Energy	1,618	1,722	103	1,716	1,826	110	1,675	1,782	107	1,892	2,013	121
Sumo Power	1,454	1,704	250	1,576	1,848	272	1,556	1,807	252	1,885	2,073	188
Tango Energy	1,714	1,714	0	1,828	1,828	0	1,785	1,785	0	—	—	—

Notes: A dash (—) means the retailer did not have any plans with solar feed-in tariffs on Energy Made Easy. Bill values coloured blue are the cheapest for the tariff/tariff combination, and values coloured orange are the most expensive. \* Difference between each retailer's highest and lowest bill. The difference has been calculated before rounding.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

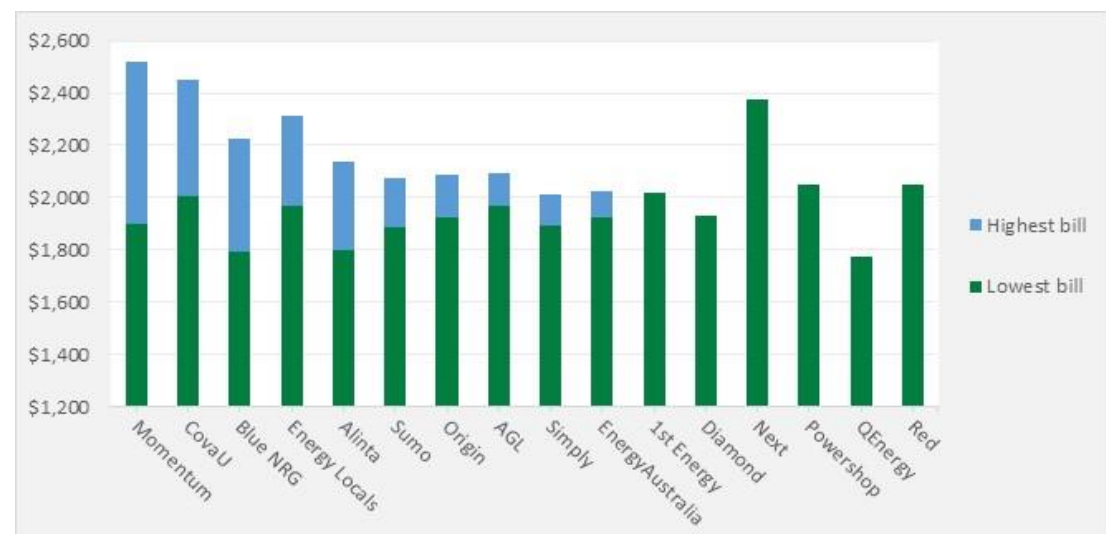
Figures 7 and 8 show bills based on residential and small business flat rate plans with feed-in tariffs, excluding solar feed-in tariff credits.

**Figure 7 Variations in residential flat rate bills for plans with feed-in tariffs, excluding solar feed-in tariff credits, June quarter 2023**



Note: Retailers are sorted by bill variation (in descending order).  
Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

**Figure 8 Variations in small business flat rate bills for plans with feed-in tariffs, excluding solar feed-in tariff credits, June quarter 2023**



Note: Retailers are sorted by bill variation (in descending order).  
Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

As can be seen from Figures 7 and 8, in the June quarter of 2023, most retailers had some variation between their highest and lowest annual bills (excluding solar feed-in tariff credits) for residential and small business flat rate plans with feed-in tariffs. However, there were some retailers that had no variation in the bills for their plan(s), either because they offered only one retail electricity plan with a feed-in tariff, or their plans with feed-in tariffs had the same prices.

Variations in bills between retailers and across an individual retailer’s range of plans with feed-in tariffs were generally a result of differences in supply and usage charges, discounts and incentives. Most retailers’ highest bills were for standing offers and their lowest bills were for market offers.

## 3.2 Comparison and ranking of net overall electricity bills

In this section we analyse customers' net overall bill position, which includes the value of solar feed-in tariff credits (section 3.1 presents bills excluding the value of solar feed-in tariff credits).

We rank customers' net overall bill positions for generally available market offers by:

- total electricity consumption (imports)—small, typical and large imports
- high, medium and low solar export/import ratios.

The analysis includes plans with and without feed-in tariffs.

### 3.2.1 Methodology

Electricity import and solar export/import ratios are based on Energex metering data, which is the actual data used by retailers to generate electricity bills for customers.<sup>24</sup> We used the following percentile levels for electricity import and solar export/import ratios to develop a nine-scenario matrix (tables 10 to 13) by tariff type:

- 75th percentile—75% of customers with solar PV systems will import less electricity than the 75th percentile customer
- median—50% of customers with solar PV systems will import less electricity than the median customer, or the 50th percentile customer
- 25th percentile—25% of customers with solar PV systems will import less electricity than the 25th percentile customer.

### 3.2.2 Annual bill rankings

Tables 10 to 13 show the three cheapest plans in the June quarter of 2023 for each of the most common tariff types, for each of the nine combinations of imports to export/import ratio. The cheapest plans vary according to a customer's electricity import level (on the left side of each matrix) and the ratio of exports to imports (at the top row of each matrix).

Other key conclusions are:

- The plans with the highest feed-in tariffs were not always the best option for every customer, particularly if a customer only exported low amounts of electricity to the grid.
- Customers with a small import level and low export ratio were generally better off with plans that had lower supply and usage charges. These plans generally had lower feed-in tariffs.
- Customers with a high export level and high export ratio were generally better off with plans that included higher feed-in tariffs and lower usage charges. It was not uncommon for these plans to have higher supply charges.
- For both residential and small business customers, the three cheapest plans were not consistent across the nine scenarios of electricity consumption and solar exports analysed.

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<sup>24</sup> Data (unpublished) provided by Energex.

**Table 10 Net annual bill ranking for residential flat rate plans, June quarter 2023**

	Low export ratio				Medium export ratio				High export ratio			
	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)
Small imports	Import 3,115 kWh, export 646 kWh				Import 3,115 kWh, export 1,583 kWh				Import 3,115 kWh, export 3,356 kWh			
	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	973	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	907	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	669
	GloBird Energy	GloSave Residential	5	987	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	917	Ovo Energy	The Basic Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	709
	GloBird Energy	Boost Residential	5	991	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	937	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	739
Typical imports	Import 4,958 kWh, export 1,027 kWh				Import 4,958 kWh, export 2,519 kWh				Import 4,958 kWh, export 5,341 kWh			
	GloBird Energy	GloSave Residential	5	1,388	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,303	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	963
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,392	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	1,313	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	1,047
	GloBird Energy	Boost Residential	5	1,395	GloBird Energy	GloSave Residential	5	1,314	Ovo Energy	The Basic Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	1,104
Large imports	Import 7,661 kWh, export 1,588 kWh				Import 7,661 kWh, export 3,892 kWh				Import 7,661 kWh, export 8,253kWh			
	GloBird Energy	Boost Residential	5	1,973	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,836	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,487
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,977	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,839	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	1,504
	GloBird Energy	GloSave Residential	5	1,978	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	1,844	Alinta Energy	Priority Plus	8	1,535

*a* Ovo Energy's The Solar Plan and The Basic Solar Plan have a two-part feed-in tariff amount of 14 c/kWh that applies for the first 4,000 kWh exported per year and 7 c/kWh applies thereafter.

*b* AGL's Residential Solar Savers has a two-part feed-in tariff, with the first feed-in tariff applying for the first 14 kWh per day.

Note: The QCA analysis provides only one plan per retailer. However, a retailer could have multiple plans with the same bill value.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

**Table 11 Net annual bill ranking for residential flat rate with controlled load super economy plans, June quarter 2023**

	Low export ratio				Medium export ratio				High export ratio			
	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)
<b>Small imports</b>	<b>Import 3,626 kWh, export 602 kWh</b>				<b>Import 3,626 kWh, export 1,377 kWh</b>				<b>Import 3,626 kWh, export 2,713 kWh</b>			
	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	1,051	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	997	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	842
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,083	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	1,019	Ovo Energy	The Basic Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	884
	Origin Energy	Origin Advantage Variable ePlus - One Big Switch	5	1,089	Ovo Energy	The Basic Plan	7	1,035	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	903
<b>Typical imports</b>	<b>Import 5,761 kWh, export 956 kWh</b>				<b>Import 5,761 kWh, export 2,188 kWh</b>				<b>Import 5,761 kWh, export 4,310 kWh</b>			
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,519	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,445	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	1,217
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	1,529	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,453	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	1,234
	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,551	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	1,455	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,283
<b>Large imports</b>	<b>Import 8,715 kWh, export 1,446 kWh</b>				<b>Import 8,715 kWh, export 3,310 kWh</b>				<b>Import 8,715 kWh, export 6,520 kWh</b>			
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	2,129	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,991	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,734
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	2,139	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	2,017	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	1,739
	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	2,140	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	2,027	Alinta Energy	Priority Plus	8	1,784

*a* Ovo Energy's The Solar Plan and The Basic Solar Plan have a two-part feed-in tariff amount of 14 c/kWh that applies for the first 4,000 kWh exported per year and 7 c/kWh applies thereafter.

*b* AGL's Residential Solar Savers has a two-part feed-in tariff with the first feed-in tariff applying for the first 14 kWh per day.

Note: The QCA analysis provides only one plan per retailer. However, a retailer could have multiple plans with the same bill value.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

**Table 12 Net annual bill ranking for customers with residential flat rate with controlled load economy plans, June quarter 2023**

	Low export ratio				Medium export ratio				High export ratio			
	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)
<b>Small imports</b>	<b>Import 3,322 kWh, export 538 kWh</b>				<b>Import 3,322 kWh, export 1,268 kWh</b>				<b>Import 3,322 kWh, export 2,525 kWh</b>			
	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	993	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	997	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	842
	Ovo Energy	The Basic Plan	5	1,030	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	1,029	Ovo Energy	The Basic Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	884
	Origin Energy	Origin Advantage Variable ePlus - 9Saver	5	1,034	Ovo Energy	The Basic Plan	7	1,035	Ovo Energy	The One Plan	7	903
<b>Typical imports</b>	<b>Import 5,571 kWh, export 902 kWh</b>				<b>Import 5,571 kWh, export 2,126 kWh</b>				<b>Import 5,571 kWh, export 4,234 kWh</b>			
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,502	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	1,445	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	1,217
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	1,512	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,453	Ovo Energy	The Solar Plan	14 <sup>a</sup> 7	1,234
	Origin Energy	Origin Advantage Variable ePlus - 9Saver	5	1,516	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	1,455	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,283
<b>Large imports</b>	<b>Import 8,560 kWh, export 1,387 kWh</b>				<b>Import 8,560 kWh, export 3,267 kWh</b>				<b>Import 8,560 kWh, export 6,506 kWh</b>			
	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	2,107	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,991	Mojo Power	Energy without Benefits	8	1,734
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	2,123	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res (\$100 Credit)	6	2,017	AGL	Residential Solar Savers	15 <sup>b</sup> 5	1,739
	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	2,133	Sumo Power	Sumo Assure Advantage Res	6	2,027	Alinta Energy	Priority Plus - Single Rate	8	1,784

*a* Ovo Energy's The Solar Plan and The Basic Solar Plan have a two-part feed-in tariff amount of 14 c/kWh that applies for the first 4,000 kWh exported per year and 7 c/kWh applies thereafter.

*b* AGL's Residential Solar Savers has a two-part feed-in tariff with the first feed-in tariff applying for the first 14 kWh per day.

Note: The QCA analysis provides only one plan per retailer. However, a retailer could have multiple plans with the same bill value.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

**Table 13 Net annual bill ranking for small business flat rate plans, June quarter 2023**

Low export ratio				Medium export ratio				High export ratio				
Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	Retailer	Plan name	FiT (c)	Bill (\$)	
Small imports	Import 2,340 kWh, export 488 kWh				Import 2,340 kWh, export 1,662 kWh				Import 2,340 kWh, export 5,049 kWh			
	Blue NRG	Blue Biz Star	5	972	Blue NRG	Blue Biz Star	5	913	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	643
	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	1,008	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	914	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	659
	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	1,024	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	930	Alinta Energy	Business Deal - Single Rate	8	695
Typical imports	Import 5,205 kWh, export 1,086 kWh				Import 5,205 kWh, export 3,696 kWh				Import 5,205 kWh, export 11,229 kWh			
	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	1,685	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	1,476	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	874
	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	1,712	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	1,503	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	900
	Blue NRG	Blue Biz Star	5	1,740	Alinta Energy	Business Deal - Single Rate	8	1,565	Alinta Energy	Business Deal - Single Rate	8	962
Large imports	Import 9,212 kWh, export 1,922 kWh				Import 9,212 kWh, export 6,543 kWh				Import 9,212 kWh, export 19,875 kWh			
	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	2,633	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	2,263	QEnergy	Biz Your Way	8	1,196
	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	2,675	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	2,305	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate	8	1,238
	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate (Interval)	8	2,689	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate (Interval)	8	2,319	Alinta Energy	Priority Business - Single Rate (Interval)	8	1,252

Note: The QCA analysis provides only one plan per retailer. However, a retailer could have multiple plans with the same bill value.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.



### 3.3 Incentives

Some retailers attached financial incentives to their plans, which lowered our calculated bills. However, such financial incentives are generally a once-off or for a set period of time. Customers should note that even if they maintain the same import/export ratio, they will receive a higher bill once those incentives no longer apply. As such, it is important for customers to carefully consider the length of the contract period when signing up for a plan with an incentive, as the real value of that incentive is spread over the term of the contract.

### 3.4 Presentation of solar plans on Energy Made Easy

The AER's retail pricing information guidelines require that retailers specify information on additional solar (and other) options that a customer may select, and that if an additional option changes any element of the rest of the plan, a separate plan be created.<sup>25</sup> Our interpretation of these requirements is that retailers should be publishing separate solar and non-solar plans, given that, at a minimum, recurring solar metering charges should be included in solar plans.

Based on our analysis of retailers' plans on Energy Made Easy in 2022–23, we note that retailers are still not applying a common approach, with some retailers charging separate fees.<sup>26</sup> We remain of the view that it would help consumers to compare plans on Energy Made Easy if all retailers published separate solar and non-solar plans and added any applicable solar metering charges to the daily supply charges on such plans.

As we had previously stated, we are still of the view that this approach would:

- reduce the likelihood of non-solar customers covering part of the cost of solar customers' solar metering charges; that would improve the cost reflectivity of prices on plans
- ensure that plans where the solar metering charge is added to the daily supply charge are not presented on Energy Made Easy as being more expensive than other plans, where solar metering charges are not included in the supply charge but are levied as a separate fee by the retailer
- be consistent with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's requirement under the Electricity Retail Code that recurring metering charges be included in the unconditional price of offers.<sup>27</sup>

### 3.5 GST status of solar feed-in tariffs

The AER's retail pricing information guidelines require retailers to provide details of how GST is applied to solar feed-in tariffs on their plans on Energy Made Easy.<sup>28</sup> The retail plan data on Energy Made Easy for 2022–23 shows that many (but not all) retailers complied with this requirement.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> AER, *Retail Pricing Information Guidelines* [version 5], 2018, p 12 (clauses 54–59).

<sup>26</sup> For example, AGL and Origin Energy recovered any applicable solar metering charges separately.

<sup>27</sup> Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, *Guide to the Electricity Retail Code*, 2021, p 5. Recurring fees are included in the definition of 'price' (p v).

<sup>28</sup> AER, *Retail Pricing Information Guidelines* [version 5], 2018, p 12 (clause 58).

<sup>29</sup> In some instances, there may be GST implications where a customer supplies solar-generated electricity to an electricity retailer. For more information, see the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), *Electricity and Gas Partnerships—issues register*, last modified 14 December 2017, viewed 6 September 2023.

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## GLOSSARY

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1st Energy	1st Energy Pty Ltd
AER	Australian Energy Regulator
AGL	AGL Sales Pty Ltd
Alinta Energy	Alinta Energy Retail Sales Pty Ltd
Amaysim Energy	amaysim Energy Pty Ltd
Amber Electric	Amber Electric Pty Ltd
Ampol Energy	Ampol Energy (Retail) Pty Ltd
ATO	Australian Taxation Office
Blue NRG	Blue NRG Pty Ltd
BMW	Bayerische Motoren Werke GmbH
Bright Spark Power	Bright Spark Power Pty Ltd
Brighte Energy	Brighte Energy Pty Ltd
Circular Energy	Maximum Energy Retail Pty Ltd (trading as Circular Energy)
Click Energy	Click Energy Pty Ltd
CovaU	CovaU Pty Ltd
DC Power	DCP Company Limited
Diamond Energy	Diamond Energy Pty Ltd
Discover Energy	Discover Energy Pty Ltd
Dodo Power & Gas	Dodo Power & Gas (M2 Energy Pty Ltd)
Electricity in a Box	Electricity in a Box Pty Ltd
Elysian Energy	Elysian Energy Pty Ltd
EnergyAustralia	EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd
Energy Locals	Energy Locals Pty Ltd
Enova Energy	Enova Energy Pty Ltd
ERM Power	ERM Power Limited
EV	electric vehicle
FiT	feed-in tariff
Future X Power	Future X Group Pty Ltd
GEE Energy	GEE Energy
GloBird Energy	GloBird Energy Pty Ltd
Glow Power	Glow Power (Energy Services Management Pty Ltd)
GST	Goods and Services Tax
Kogan Energy	Kogan Australia Pty Ltd
kWh	kilowatt hours
Locality Planning Energy	Locality Planning Energy Pty Ltd
Lumo Energy	Lumo Energy Pty Ltd
Mojo Power	Mojo Power Pty Ltd
Momentum Energy	Momentum Energy Pty Ltd
Nectr	Nectr Distributed Energy Pty Ltd
NEM	National Electricity Market
Next Business Energy	Next Business Energy Pty Ltd
NERL	National Energy Retail Law

NSW	New South Wales
Origin Energy	Origin Energy Pty Ltd
Ovo Energy	OVO Energy Pty Ltd
People Energy	People Energy Pty Ltd
Powerclub	Power Club Limited
Powerdirect	Powerdirect Pty Ltd
Powershop	Powershop Australia Pty Ltd
PV	(solar) photovoltaic
QCA	Queensland Competition Authority
QEnergy	QEnergy Limited
Qld	Queensland
Radian Energy	Radian Holdings Pty Ltd
ReAmped Energy	ReAmped Energy Pty Ltd
Red Energy	Red Energy Pty Ltd
SEQ	south-east Queensland
Simply Energy	Simply Energy Pty Ltd
Smart Energy	Smart Energy Retail Pty Ltd
Social Energy	Social Energy Australia Pty Ltd
Sumo Power	Sumo Power Pty Ltd
Tango Energy	Tango Energy Pty Ltd

## APPENDIX A: BILL CALCULATIONS

In accordance with the terms of reference, this report is based on plan data as published on the AER's Energy Made Easy website. In calculating annual bills, we included the following elements:

- fixed supply charges
- variable usage charges
- one-off sign-up bonuses / financial incentives
- guaranteed and conditional discounts
- annual membership fees
- solar metering charges
- fees to access wholesale prices
- feed-in tariff amounts (for section 3.2 only).

We did not add additional charges to bills for features offered by retailers that incur an additional charge (e.g. GreenPower), or fees and charges that did not apply to all customers (e.g. credit card payment fees and paper bill fees).

Table 14 shows how these elements were used in calculating market offer bills and net bill position for solar customers.

**Table 14 Annual market offer bill and net bill position formulae**

Annual bill								
Supply costs (retailer daily supply charge x 365.25) <sup>a</sup>	+	Cost of electricity imported (retailer's variable usage x annual consumption level)	+	Membership fees and/or fees to access wholesale prices	-	One-off sign up bonuses, guaranteed and conditional discounts	+	GST <sup>b</sup>

Net overall annual bill position										
Supply costs (retailer daily supply charge x 365.25) <sup>a</sup>	+	Cost of electricity imported (retailer's variable usage x annual consumption level)	+	Membership fees and/or fees to access wholesale prices	-	One-off sign up bonuses, guaranteed and conditional discounts	+	GST <sup>b</sup>	+	Revenue from solar exports (annual consumption level x export ratio x retailer FIT)

*a Includes metering fees which retailers identify as being charged separately (if any).*

*b While revenue from solar FIT payments may attract GST for some customers, we understand this does not appear on electricity bills.*

For plans with two feed-in tariffs, the revenue from solar exports has been calculated by applying the first feed-in tariff to the specified export threshold (daily or annual kWh) and the second feed-in tariff applied to exports above that export threshold.

## APPENDIX B: SINGLE FEED-IN TARIFFS BY RETAILER AND QUARTER

**Table 15 Residential single feed-in tariffs by quarter, 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	September quarter	December quarter	March quarter	June quarter
1st Energy	6	6	6	6
AGL	5	5	5	5
Alinta Energy	8	8	8	8
Ampol Energy	—	—	5	5
Circular Energy	6	—	—	—
CovaU	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Diamond Energy	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Dodo Power & Gas	5	5	5	5
Electricity in a Box	5	5	—	—
Elysian Energy	7	—	—	—
EnergyAustralia	6.6–10	6.6–10	6.6–10	6.6–10
Future X Power	4	—	—	—
GloBird Energy	1–5	1–5	1–5	1–5
Glow Power	7	—	—	—
Kogan Energy	2.88	2.88	2.88	2.88
Mojo Power	—	—	—	8
Momentum Energy	—	7	7	7
Nectr	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85–9
Next Business Energy	—	—	—	7
Origin Energy	2–5	2–5	2–5	2–5
Ovo Energy	5–7	7	7	7
Powerdirect	5	5	—	—
Powershop	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
QEnergy	—	—	—	8
Radian Energy	7	7	7	7
Red Energy	5	5	5	5
Simply Energy	7	7	7	7
Social Energy	6–8.3	—	—	—
Sumo Power	6	6	6	6
Tango Energy	5	5	5	5
<b>Highest</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Average<sup>30</sup></b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Lowest</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

Notes: The table combines the feed-in tariffs attached to the three most common residential common tariffs and tariff combinations. A dash (—) means the retailer did not attach a feed-in tariff to its plan(s) in the SEQ market or did not have any plans in the market. We excluded the following plans from our analysis on the basis that their special terms and conditions distinguished them from generally available plans:

- AGL's Electric Vehicle Plan (Residential), AGL's Residential Electric Vehicle Plan (BMW Customers), Ovo Energy's The EV Plan and Red Energy's Red EV Saver plan, which required customers to be the owner of an electric vehicle.
- Origin Energy's Solar Boost Plus plans, which required customers to purchase a solar PV system through Origin Energy.
- Energy Locals' Members Energy Solar + Battery and Social Energy's Better Together plans, which required customers to have a particular battery.
- AGL's Residential Solar Battery Saver plans, which required customers to have a battery.
- Simply Energy's QLD Simply Energy Solutions Solar elec plans, which required customers to purchase a solar PV system from a particular retailer.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

<sup>30</sup> To calculate the average FiT, we first calculated the simple average of FiTs on each retailer's portfolio of offers (excluding offers with no FiT attached), and then calculated the simple average of all of the retailers' averaged FiT. This approach removes any weighting effect that retailers with a relatively large share of plans with FiTs would have on the average FiT.

**Table 16 Small business single feed-in tariffs by quarter, 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	September quarter	December quarter	March quarter	June quarter
1st Energy	6	6	6	6
AGL	5	5	5	5
Alinta Energy	8	8	8	8
Blue NRG	5	5	5	5
Circular Energy	6	—	—	—
CovaU	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5
Diamond Energy	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Elysian Energy	7	—	—	—
EnergyAustralia	7.26	7.26	7.26	7.26
Enova Energy	—	3	3	—
Future X Power	4	—	—	—
Glow Power	7	—	—	—
Momentum Energy	—	7	7	7
Next Business Energy	—	—	—	7
Origin Energy	5	5	5	5
Powerdirect	5	5	—	—
Powershop	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5
QEnergy	—	—	—	8
Red Energy	5	5	5	5
Simply Energy	7	7	7	7
Sumo Power	6	6	6	6
<b>Highest</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Average<sup>31</sup></b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Lowest</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3.5</b>

Notes: A dash (—) means the retailer did not attach a feed-in tariff to its plan(s) in the SEQ market or did not have any plans in the market. We excluded the following plans from our analysis on the basis that their special terms and conditions distinguished them from generally available plans:

— Origin Energy's Business Solar Boost Plus plans, which required customers to purchase a solar PV system through Origin Energy.  
Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

**Table 17 Residential single feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2016–17 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
1st Energy	—	—	6	6	6–11	6–11	6
AGL	6	10.6–20	10.6–20	8.6–17	6–15	5–12	5
Alinta Energy	—	11	11	11	11	8	8
Amaysim Energy	—	14	14	8–14	—	—	—
Amber Electric	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Ampol Energy	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Bright Spark Power	—	—	—	—	6–8	—	—
Circular Energy	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Click Energy	6–11	8–16	8–16	8–12	—	—	—
CovaU	—	—	—	11	11	5.5	5.5
DC Power	—	—	15	—	—	—	—
Diamond Energy	8	12	12	12	10.2	7	5.2
Discover Energy	—	—	—	6–11.5	6	6	—
Dodo Power & Gas	4–6.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	5–8.5	5
Electricity in a Box	—	—	—	—	4	4	—

<sup>31</sup> To calculate the average FiT, we first calculated the simple average of FiTs on each retailer's portfolio of offers (excluding offers with no FiT attached), and then calculated the simple average of all of the retailers' averaged FiT. This approach removes any weighting effect that retailers with a relatively large share of plans with FiTs would have on the average FiT.

<b>Retailer</b>	<b>2016–17</b>	<b>2017–18</b>	<b>2018–19</b>	<b>2019–20</b>	<b>2020–21</b>	<b>2021–22</b>	<b>2022–23</b>
Elysian Energy	—	—	—	7.86	1–7.863	7	—
Energy Locals	10	10–12.1	9–16	10	8.5–10	6	—
EnergyAustralia	6	11–16.1	16.1	11.5–18	8.5	6.6–10	6.6–10
Future X Power	—	—	7	7	4	4	—
GEE Energy	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
GloBird Energy	—	—	—	3	3	3–5	1–5
Glow Power	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
Kogan Energy	—	—	—	5.89	2.88–3.84	2.88	2.88
Locality Planning Energy	—	—	10	10	5.5	5.5	—
Lumo Energy	6	6	6	—	—	—	—
Mojo Power	7.3	9	9	5.5	5.5	5.5–8	8
Momentum Energy	—	—	—	—	7–13.5	7–10	7
Nectr	—	—	—	—	6	3.85–11.5	3.85–9
Next Business Energy	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
Origin Energy	6–10	7	7–17	7	6–14	2–5	2–5
Ovo Energy	—	—	—	8	8	6	7
People Energy	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Powerclub	—	—	9.5	8.5	7.86	2.05	—
Powerdirect	6–8	10.6	10.6	8.6	6	5	—
Powershop	8.2	12.2	9.5	9.5	3.5–6	3.5	3.5
QEnergy	—	8	8	8	—	8	8
Radian Energy	—	—	—	—	6	7–8.5	7
ReAmped Energy	—	—	8	5–8	3–7	2–6	—
Red Energy	6	6–11.5	6	6	6	5	5
Simply Energy	6.2	11.3	10	10	10	4.5–10	7
Smart Energy	—	—	—	—	—	5–7	—
Social Energy	—	—	—	—	8.3	—	—
Sumo Power	—	—	—	—	6	6	6
Tango Energy	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
<b>Highest</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Average<sup>32</sup></b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>
<b>Lowest</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
Number of retailers with a single feed-in tariff	13	16	22	27	31	35	23

Notes: A dash (—) means the retailer did not attach a feed-in tariff to its plans(s) in the SEQ market, or did not have any plans in the market.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

<sup>32</sup> The averages have been updated for 2017–18 (from 11 to 10.5 c/kWh) as well as for 2018–19 (from 10.7 c/kWh to 9.9 c/kWh) to exclude Mojo Power and Red Energy's two-part feed-in tariffs.

**Table 18 Small business single feed-in tariffs, June quarter of 2016–17 to 2022–23 (c/kWh)**

Retailer	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
1st Energy	—	—	6	6	6	6	6
AGL	6	10.6	10.6–20	8.6	6–8	5	5
Alinta Energy	—	11	11	11	11	8	8
Amaysim Energy	—	—	10	8–10	—	—	—
Blue NRG	—	—	—	8	8	5–8	5
Bright Spark Power	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Circular Energy	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Click Energy	—	—	10	8	—	—	—
CovaU	—	—	—	11	11	5.5	5.5
Diamond Energy	8	12	12	12	10.2	7	5.2
Discover Energy	—	—	—	6–11.5	6	6	—
Electricity in a Box	—	—	—	—	4	4	—
Elysian Energy	—	—	—	7.86	7.863	7	—
Energy Locals	10	10–12.1	9–10	10	9.9–10	6	—
EnergyAustralia	6	11–16.1	16.1	12.65	9.35	7.26	7.26
Enova Energy	—	—	—	—	6	3	—
ERM Power	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
Future X Power	—	—	7	7	4	4	—
GEE Energy	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Glow Power	—	—	—	—	7	7	—
Locality Planning Energy	—	—	—	10	5.5	5.5	—
Lumo Energy	6	6–11.5	6	—	—	—	—
Mojo Power	—	—	—	—	—	5.5	—
Momentum Energy	—	—	—	—	7	7–10	7
Next Business Energy	—	—	10	10	7–10	7	7
Origin Energy	6	7	7–18	7	6	5	5
People Energy	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Powerclub	—	—	9.5	8.5	7.86	2.05	—
Powerdirect	6–8	10.6	10.6	8.6	6	5	—
Powershop	8.2	12.2	9.5	9.5	3.5–6	3.5	3.5
QEnergy	—	8	8	8	5.5	8	8
Radian Energy	—	—	—	—	6	7	—
ReAmped Energy	—	—	—	5–8	5	3	—
Red Energy	6	6–11.5	6	6	6	5	5
Shell Energy	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
Simply Energy	6.2	11.3	10	10	10	4.5	7
Sumo Power	—	—	—	—	6	6	6
Tango Energy	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
<b>Highest</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12.65</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Average<sup>33</sup></b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>6.0</b>
<b>Lowest</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.05</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Number of retailers with a single feed-in tariff	11	13	18	23	29	32	15

Notes: A dash (—) means the retailer did not attach a feed-in tariff to its plans(s) in the SEQ market, or did not have any plans in the market.

Sources: Energy Made Easy; QCA analysis.

<sup>33</sup> The average for 2018–19 has been updated (from 10 to 9.5 c/kWh) to exclude Red Energy's two-part feed-in tariffs.



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## APPENDIX C: SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

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Appendix C is available for download from our website. Tables in Appendix C show:

- the residential and small business flat rate feed-in tariffs in each quarter of the seven years to 2022–23
- the lowest and highest bills for the residential tariffs and small business tariff combinations, excluding solar feed-in tariff credits, for the first three quarters of 2022–23.