

## 13 – 19 October 2019

### Introduction

The AER is required to publish the reasons for significant variations between forecast and actual price and is responsible for monitoring activity and behaviour in the National Electricity Market. The Electricity Report forms an important part of this work. The report contains information on significant price variations, movements in the contract market, together with analysis of spot market outcomes and rebidding behaviour. By monitoring activity in these markets, the AER is able to keep up to date with market conditions and identify compliance issues.

AGL Energy’s new Barker Inlet Power Station commenced operations on 15 October 2019, with a maximum output for that week of 75 MWh on 19 October.

### Spot market prices

Figure 1 shows the spot prices that occurred in each region during the week 13 to 19 October 2019.

**Figure 1: Spot price by region (\$/MWh)**

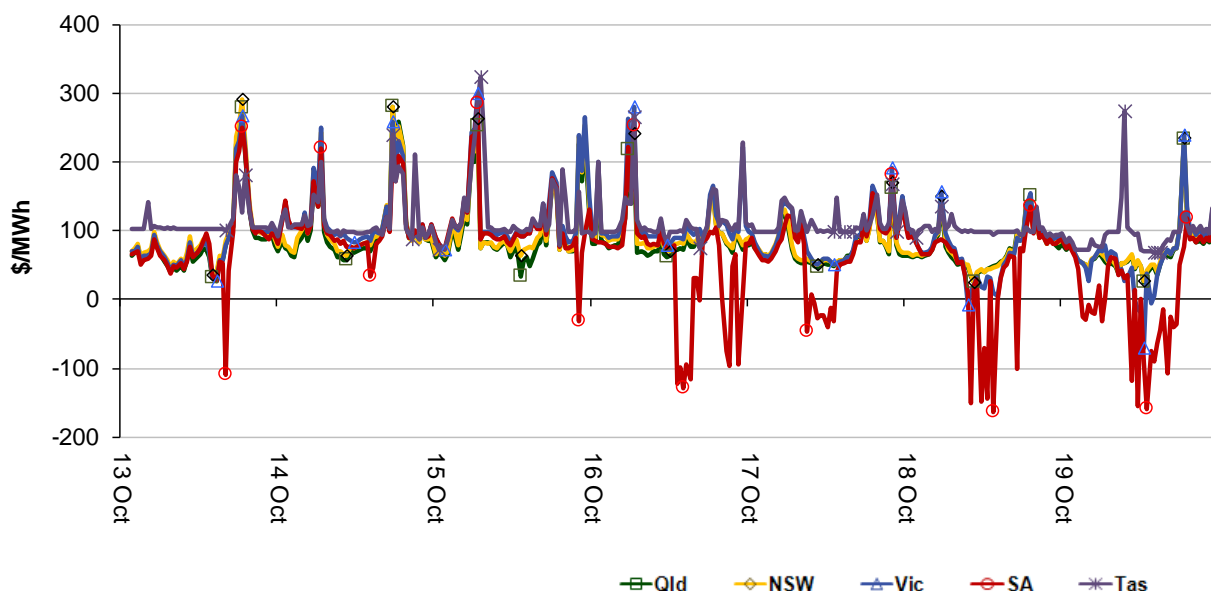
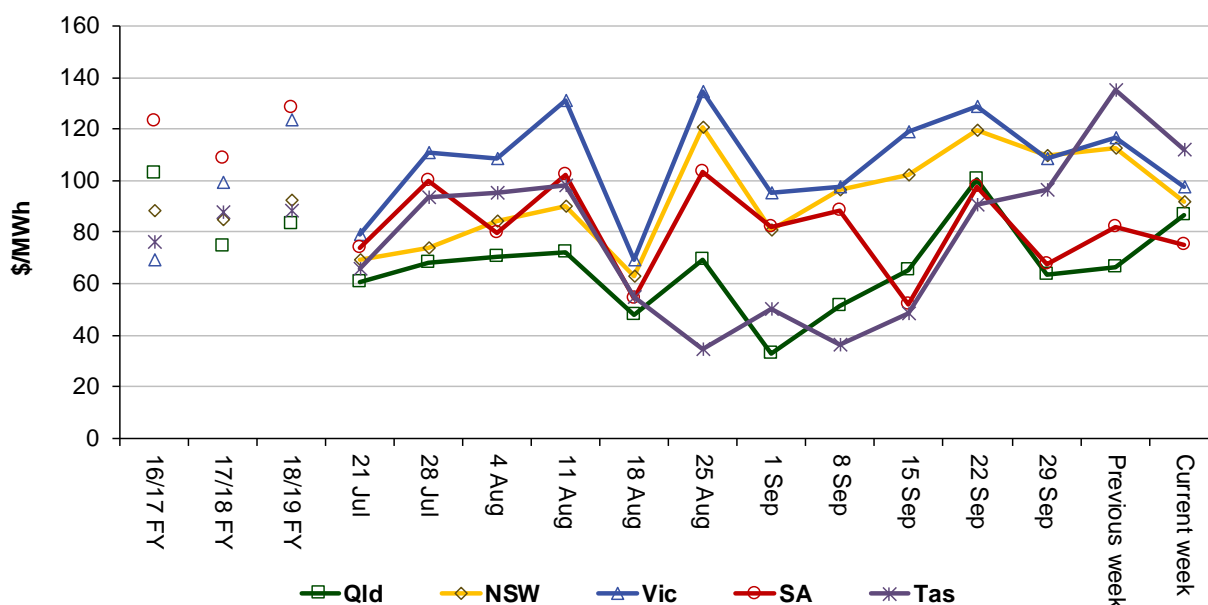


Figure 2 shows the volume weighted average (VWA) prices for the current week (with prices shown in Table 1) and the preceding 12 weeks, as well as the VWA price over the previous 3 financial years.

**Figure 2: Volume weighted average spot price by region (\$/MWh)**



**Table 1: Volume weighted average spot prices by region (\$/MWh)**

Region	Qld	NSW	Vic	SA	Tas
Current week	86	92	98	75	112
18-19 financial YTD	80	90	86	95	51
19-20 financial YTD	67	89	104	81	77

Longer-term statistics tracking average spot market prices are available on the [AER website](#).

## Spot market price forecast variations

The AER is required under the National Electricity Rules to determine whether there is a significant variation between the forecast spot price published by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the actual spot price and, if there is a variation, state why the AER considers the significant price variation occurred. It is not unusual for there to be significant variations as demand forecasts vary and participants react to changing market conditions. A key focus is whether the actual price differs significantly from the forecast price either four or 12 hours ahead. These timeframes have been chosen as indicative of the time frames within which different technology types may be able to commit (intermediate plant within four hours and slow start plant within 12 hours).

There were 234 trading intervals throughout the week where actual prices varied significantly from forecasts. This compares to the weekly average in 2018 of 199 counts and the average in 2017 of 185. Reasons for the variations for this week are summarised in Table 2. Based on AER analysis, the table summarises (as a percentage) the number of times when the actual price differs significantly from the forecast price four or 12 hours ahead and the major reason for that variation. The reasons are classified as availability (which means that there is a change in the total quantity or price offered for generation), demand forecast inaccuracy, changes to network capability or as a combination of factors (when there is not one dominant reason). An instance where both four and 12 hour ahead forecasts differ significantly from the actual price will be counted as two variations.

**Table 2: Reasons for variations between forecast and actual prices**

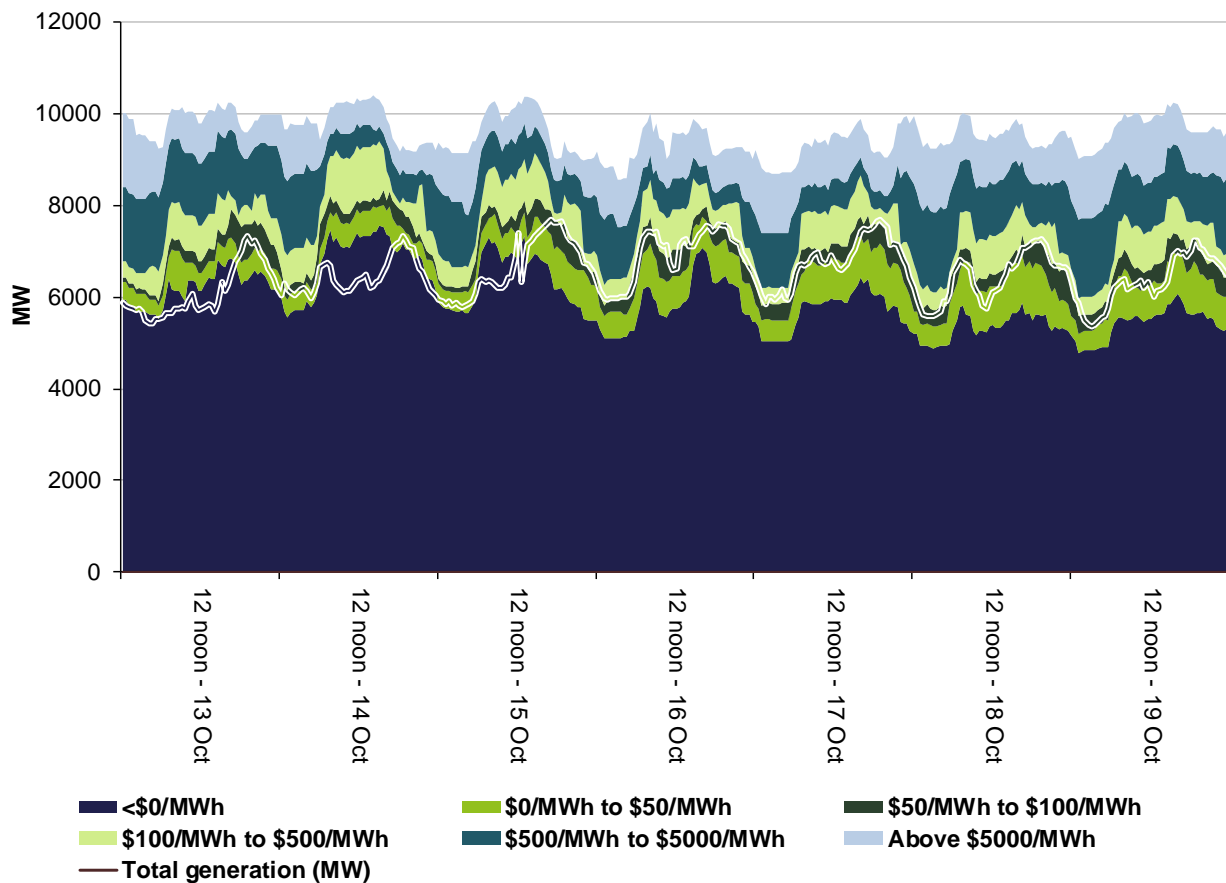
	Availability	Demand	Network	Combination
% of total above forecast	10	24	0	2
% of total below forecast	10	45	0	10

Note: Due to rounding, the total may not be 100 per cent.

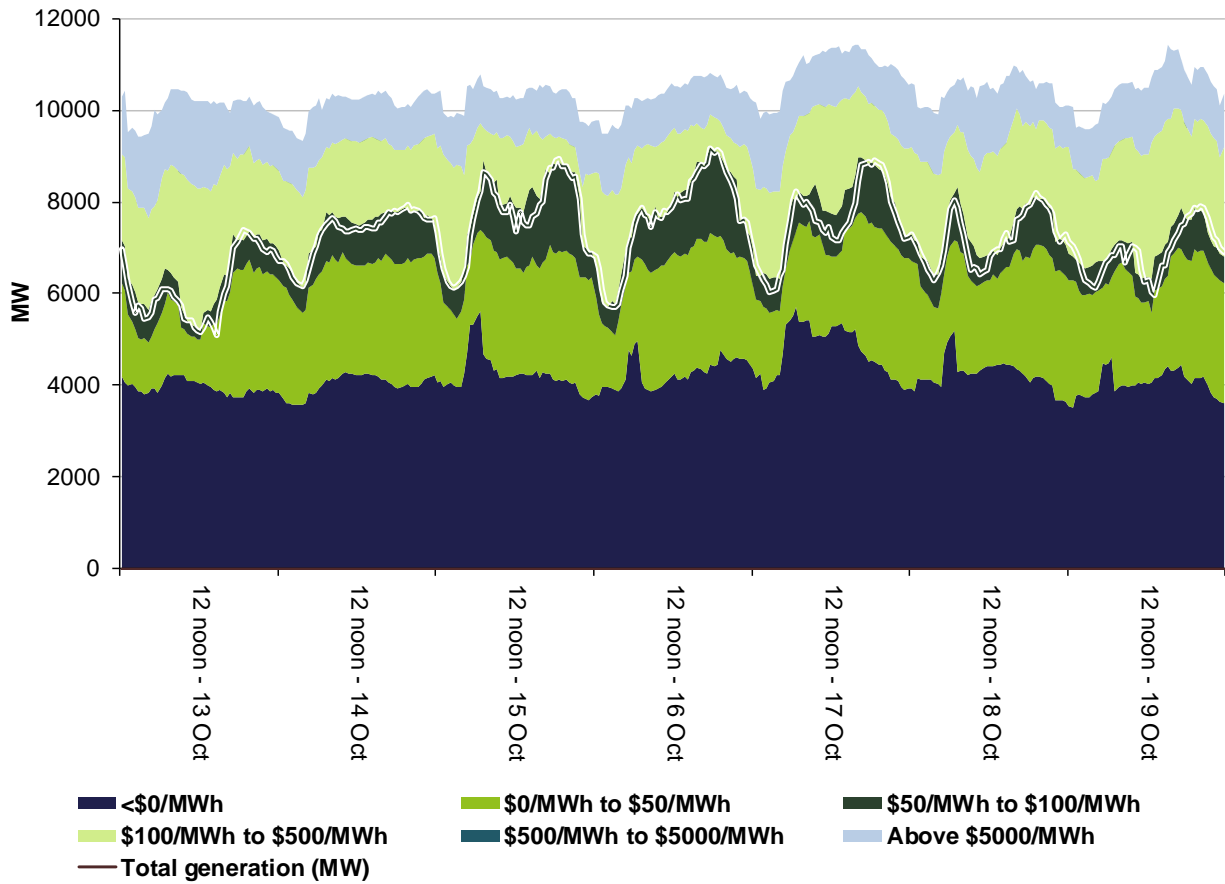
## Generation and bidding patterns

The AER reviews generator bidding as part of its market monitoring to better understand the drivers behind price variations. Figure 3 to Figure 7 show the total generation dispatched and the amounts of capacity offered within certain price bands for each 30 minute trading interval in each region.

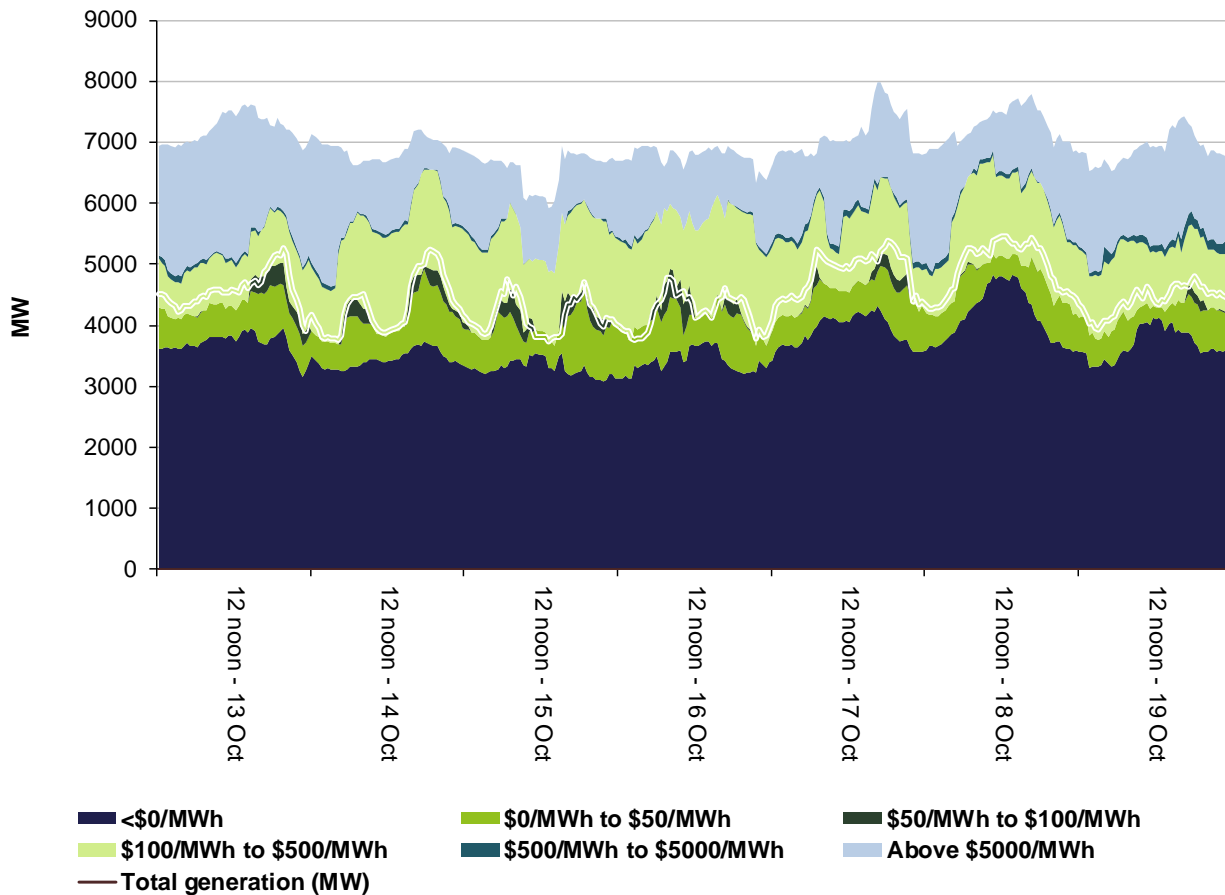
**Figure 3: Queensland generation and bidding patterns**



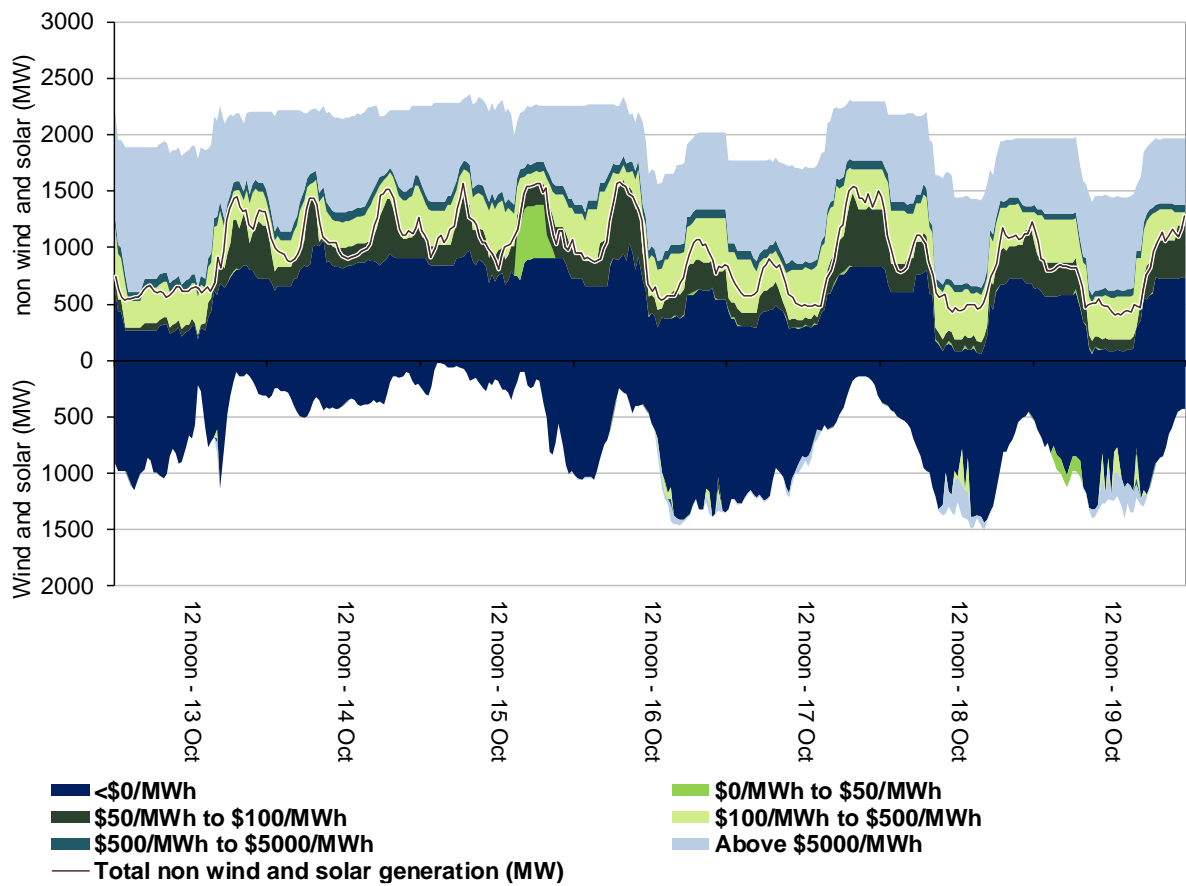
**Figure 4: New South Wales generation and bidding patterns**



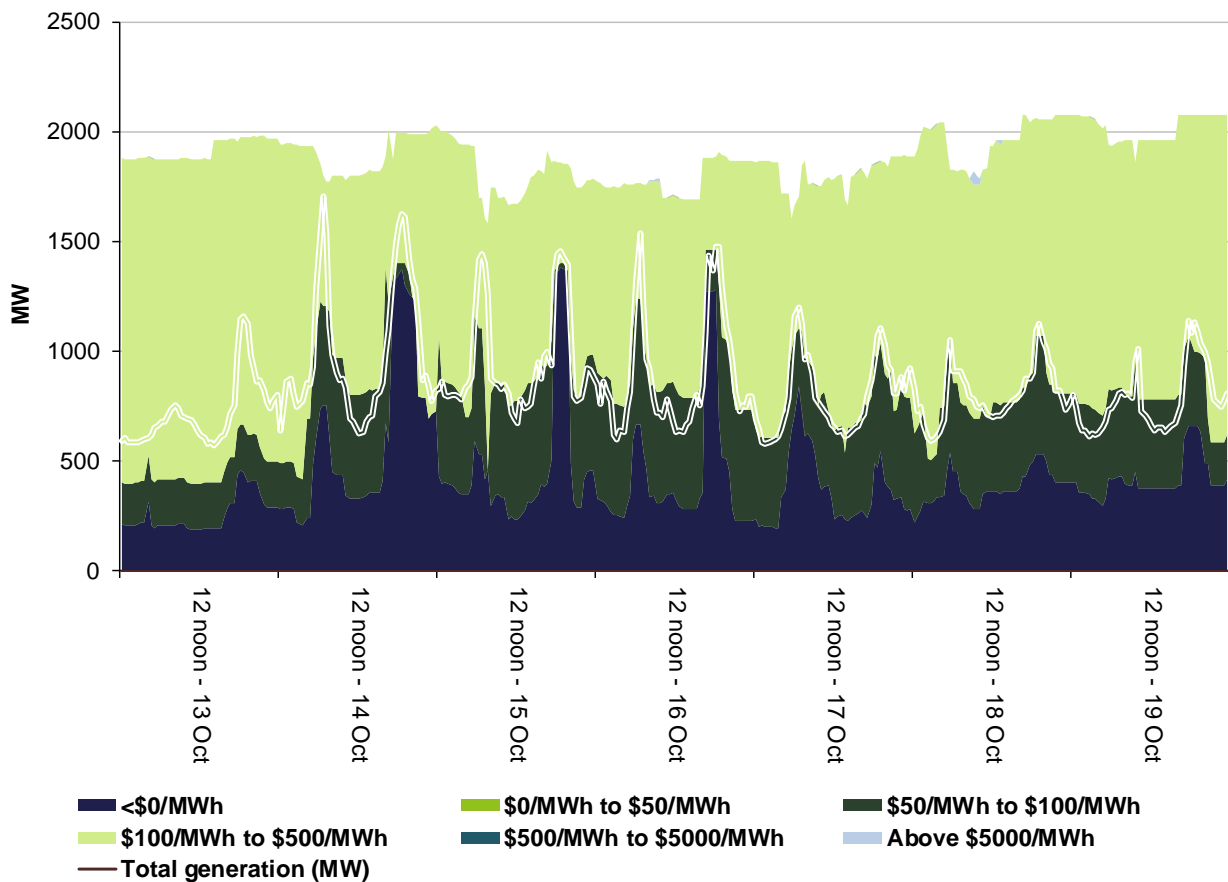
**Figure 5: Victoria generation and bidding patterns**



**Figure 6: South Australia generation and bidding patterns**



**Figure 7: Tasmania generation and bidding patterns**



## Frequency control ancillary services markets

Frequency control ancillary services (FCAS) are required to maintain the frequency of the power system within the frequency operating standards. Raise and lower regulation services are used to address small fluctuations in frequency, while raise and lower contingency services are used to address larger frequency deviations. There are six contingency services:

- fast services, which arrest a frequency deviation within the first 6 seconds of a contingent event (raise and lower 6 second)
- slow services, which stabilise frequency deviations within 60 seconds of the event (raise and lower 60 second)
- delayed services, which return the frequency to the normal operating band within 5 minutes (raise and lower 5 minute) at which time the five minute dispatch process will take effect.

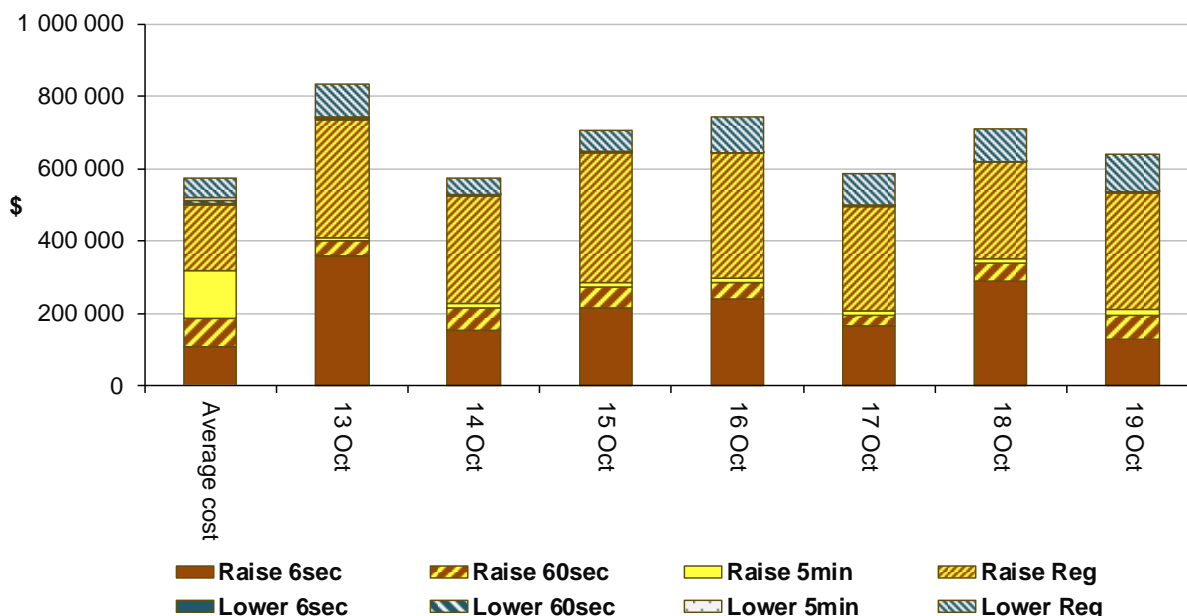
The Electricity Rules stipulate that generators pay for raise contingency services and customers pay for lower contingency services. Regulation services are paid for on a “causer pays” basis determined every four weeks by AEMO.

The total cost of FCAS on the mainland for the week was \$3 614 000 or around 1 per cent of energy turnover on the mainland.

The total cost of FCAS in Tasmania for the week was \$1 180 500 or around less than 6 per cent of energy turnover in Tasmania.

Figure 8 shows the daily breakdown of cost for each FCAS for the NEM, as well as the average cost since the beginning of the previous financial year.

**Figure 8: Daily frequency control ancillary service cost**



## Detailed market analysis of significant price events

### Mainland

There was one occasion where the spot price across the mainland was greater than three times the New South Wales weekly average price of \$92/MWh and above \$250/MWh. The New South Wales price is used a proxy for the mainland.

### Sunday, 13 October

**Table 3: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 pm	290.81	185.79	244.68	20 853	20 627	20 749	29 456	30 138	30519

For the 7 pm trading interval, prices aligned across all mainland regions and will be treated as one. Conditions at the time saw net demand 226 MW higher than forecast and net availability 682 MW lower than forecast, both four hours prior. Lower availability was mostly due to the removal of approximately net 600 MW of capacity across Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria (most of which was priced below \$48/MWh). With little capacity across the mainland regions offered between \$148/MWh and \$240/MWh, the spot price settled between \$251/MWh and \$290/MWh for the trading interval. See Table 4 for rebids removing capacity.

**Table 4: Significant rebids**

Submitted time	Time effective	Participant	Station	Capacity rebid (MW)	Price from (\$/MWh)	Price to (\$/MWh)	Rebid reason
4.46 pm		Visy Power Generation	Smithfield	-120	-984	N/A	1645~A~NSW price PD@1645 lwr thn 5PD@1500 for 1900 SL~
4.55 pm		AGL Energy	Loy Yang A	-90	<0	N/A	1650~P~010 unexpected/plant limits~101 milling limits
5.34 pm		AGL Energy	Bayswater	-20	38	N/A	1730~P~010 unexpected/plant limits~101 milling limits
5.46 pm		RTA Yarwun	Yarwun	-45	-1000	N/A	gas supply limitations
5.52 pm		EnergyAustralia	Jeeralang B	-84	-1000	N/A	1750~P~B3 failed start SL~
5.55 pm		EnergyAustralia	Jeeralang B	-84	-1000	N/A	1755~P~B2 failed start SL~
6.23 pm		CS Energy	Gladstone	-44	-1000	N/A	1822P AVR testing-SL
6.24 pm	6.35 pm	CS Energy	Gladstone	-4	-1000	N/A	1823P AVR testing-SL
6.24 pm	6.35 pm	CS Energy	Gladstone	-130	<48	N/A	1824P condenser backflush-SL

Submitted time	Time effective	Participant	Station	Capacity rebid (MW)	Price from (\$/MWh)	Price to (\$/MWh)	Rebid reason
6.34 pm	6.45 pm	CS Energy	Gladstone	48	N/A	-1000	1834P AVR testing-SL
6.41 pm	6.50 pm	AGL Energy	Loy Yang A	-10	-1000	N/A	1840~P~020 reduction in avail cap~203 plant failure 10MW

## Queensland

There were two occasions where the spot price in Queensland was greater than three times the Queensland weekly average price of \$86/MWh and above \$250/MWh.

### Sunday, 13 October

**Table 5: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 pm	278.19	187.70	240.73	6806	6868	6890	9571	9786	9918

The price was aligned in all mainland regions and is discussed under Table 3.

### Monday, 14 October

**Table 6: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
6 pm	281.61	299.73	299.73	7003	7044	7046	9303	9278	9507

Conditions at the time saw prices close to forecast.

## New South Wales

There were two occasions where the spot price in New South Wales was greater than three times the New South Wales weekly average price of \$92/MWh and above \$250/MWh.

### Sunday, 13 October

**Table 7: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 pm	290.81	185.79	244.68	8152	8014	8164	10 213	10 529	10 739

The price was aligned in all mainland regions and is discussed under Table 3.



## Monday, 14 October

**Table 8: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
6 pm	280.22	296.19	299.30	8387	8349	8425	10 118	10 164	10 272

Conditions at the time saw prices close to forecast.

### Victoria

There was one occasion where the spot price in Victoria was greater than three times the Victoria weekly average price of \$98/MWh and above \$250/MWh.

## Tuesday, 15 October

**Table 9: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 am	299.99	299.99	299.99	5495	5431	5540	6574	6586	6580

Conditions at the time saw prices as forecast.

### South Australia

There were three occasions where the spot price in South Australia was greater than three times the South Australia weekly average price of \$75/MWh and above \$250/MWh and there were thirteen occasions where the spot price was below -\$100/MWh.

## Sunday, 13 October

**Table 10: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
4.30 pm	-109.68	43.62	68.50	1077	1100	1081	2971	3031	2561

Conditions at the time saw demand close to forecast and availability 60 MW less than forecast, both four hours prior.

At the time, there were only four plants offering capacity between \$68/MWh and the price floor. This meant that small changes in demand or availability could result in large changes to the dispatch price. At 6.25 pm availability increased by 172 MW, mostly due to an increase in wind generation. This caused a number of generation plants to be ramp down constrained. This resulted in the dispatch price dropping to the price floor for one dispatch interval. In response to the negative price, a number of participants rebid a total of 289 MW of capacity from the price floor to above \$101/MWh and the dispatch price increased to \$80/MWh for the final dispatch interval. See Table 11 below.

**Table 11: Significant rebids**

Submitted time	Time effective	Participant	Station	Capacity rebid (MW)	Price from (\$/MWh)	Price to (\$/MWh)	Rebid reason
4.23 pm	4.30 pm	Energy Australia	Waterloo WF	130	-1000	150	16:23 ~ A ~ band adj to 5min negative DP ~ ABS1
4.23 pm	4.30 pm	Trustpower	Snowtown WF	99	-1000	5000	1620 A SA1 5min PD RRP for 1630 (\$-96.0) published at 1620 is 105.65% lower than 30min PD RRP published at 1531 (\$46.68) - time of alert: 1623
4.23 pm	4.30 pm	AGL Energy	Torrens Island	60	-1000	101	1620~A~040 chg in AEMO disp~44 price decrease VS PD SA - \$1000 FOR 16:25

**Table 12: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 pm	251.45	150.18	213.46	1293	1264	1257	2377	2395	2304

The price was aligned in all mainland regions and is discussed under Table 3.

## Tuesday, 15 October

**Table 13: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 am	286.23	273.13	273.16	1489	1445	1450	2366	2511	2522

Conditions at the time saw prices close to forecast.

## Wednesday, 16 October

**Table 14: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
7 am	251.94	375.79	277.07	1466	1426	1431	2599	2480	2422
1.30 pm	-122.16	71.98	-900.00	619	716	738	2482	2464	2806

For the 7 am trading interval conditions at the time saw demand 40 MW higher than forecast and availability 120 MW higher than forecast, both four hours prior.

Higher availability was due to higher than forecast wind generation, almost all of which was offered in at or below \$0/MWh. This led to the price settling between \$165/MWh to \$274/MWh for the entire trading interval.

For the 1.30 pm trading interval, demand was 97 MW lower than forecast and availability was 18 MW higher than forecast, both four hours prior.

In the 4 hours leading up to the start of the trading interval, 240 MW of capacity was added in or rebid from prices above \$105/MWh to prices below \$0/MWh. From 1 pm to 1.10 pm demand dropped approximately 20 MW while wind generation increased by around 100 MW. With higher priced generation either ramp down constrained or unable to set price, the dispatch price dropped to \$0/MWh and -\$900/MWh for the first two dispatch intervals respectively. In response to the negative price, participants rebid approximately 350 MW of capacity from prices below \$56/MWh to prices above \$406/MWh and the dispatch price increased to between -\$60/MWh and \$81/MWh for the remainder of the trading interval. See Table 15 below for significant rebids.

**Table 15: Significant rebids**

Submitted time	Time effective	Participant	Station	Capacity rebid (MW)	Price from (\$/MWh)	Price to (\$/MWh)	Rebid reason
10.49 am		Origin Energy	Ladbroke Grove	83	105	-1000	1045A ensure economic dispatch - avoid short shutdown SL
11.34 am		Engie	Pelican Point	50	N/A	-1000	0835~F~revised tolling nomination: #1575~
12.56 pm	1.05 pm	Neoen	Hornsedale Power Reserve Unit 1	12	N/A	<0	1256 A change in forecast prices
12.57 pm	1.05 pm	Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	Tailem Bend Solar Project 1	95	14700	-1000	1257 A Predispatch showing positive prices
1.04 pm	1.15 pm	Vena Energy Services (Australia) Pty Ltd	Tailem Bend Solar Project 1	95	-1000	14700	1304 A Negative prices again in predispatch
1.06 pm	1.15 pm	Neoen	Hornsedale Power Reserve Unit 1	6	<56	406	1306 A change in forecast prices
1.07 pm	1.15 pm	Infigen	Lake Bonney 2 WF	149	-1000	12879	1250~A~SA PRICE DP@1310 for 1310 948 lwr thn 5PD@1305 SL~
1.08 pm	1.15 pm	Trustpower	Snowtown WF	99	-1000	5000	1305 A SA1 5MIN PD RRP for 1330 (\$-900.0) published at 1305 IS 1197.3% lower than 30MIN PD RRP published at 1231 (\$69.37) - time of alert: 1308

**Table 16: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
2.30 pm	-129.99	-96.00	-900.00	627	701	730	2882	2521	2869
3.30 pm	-116.27	-333.98	-900.00	744	752	783	3081	2633	2909

Prices were close to forecast for the 2.30 pm trading interval.

For the 3.30 pm trading interval, demand was close to forecast and availability was 448 MW higher than forecast, both four hours prior. The higher availability was mainly due to higher than forecast wind generation and Pelican Point adding in 122 MW of capacity in at the start of the trading interval (50 MW of which was priced at the floor).

There was no capacity priced between \$-300/MWh and \$-900/MWh so little changes in demand could cause large fluctuations in price. At 3.05 pm demand fell 30 MW and resulted in the dispatch price falling to \$-900/MWh. In response to the negative price, EnergyAustralia and Trustpower collectively rebid approximately 230 MW at Snowtown Wind Farm and Waterloo Wind Farm priced less than \$0/MWh to prices above \$50/MWh. This caused the price to settle between \$-50/MWh and \$80/MWh for the remainder of the trading interval.

## Friday, 18 October

**Table 17: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
10.30 am	-151.26	-4.62	-1000.00	635	701	700	3017	2633	2714
Midday	-149.24	-1000.00	-1000.00	603	573	616	2982	2650	2677
1 pm	-143.39	-554.58	-1000.00	571	587	617	2825	2645	2651
2 pm	-163.26	-494.10	-1000.00	604	592	645	2864	2692	2668
5.30 pm	-101.27	77.50	-16.13	1095	1060	1084	3013	2598	2622

At times, AEMO may need to override the normal dispatch process to maintain system security. On this day AEMO had directed a gas plant in South Australia, triggering an intervention event. Special pricing arrangements apply for all significant price events on 18 October in all regions following an intervention in the market, with the exception of the 5.30 pm price event.

For the 10.30 am trading interval, demand was 66 MW lower than forecast and availability was 384 MW higher than forecast, both four hours ahead. Higher availability was due to higher than forecast wind generation, and 200 MW of capacity added in by AGL at Torrens Island (40 MW of which was offered at the price floor). There was little capacity offered between the price floor and \$90/MWh. This meant that small changes in demand or availability could cause significant

changes in price. The dispatch price dropped to the floor for one trading interval, causing the spot price to settle lower than forecast.

For the midday to 2 pm trading intervals, demand was close to forecast and availability was between 172 MW to 332 MW higher than forecast, four hours prior. Higher availability was due to higher than forecast wind generation, most of which was priced below \$0/MWh. There was little capacity offered between the price floor and \$-100/MWh. A minimum of net 136 MW capacity was moved from the price floor to prices above \$-100/MWh before the start of each trading interval. In all trading intervals the price reached the floor for one dispatch interval. In response to the negative dispatch price, up to net 622 MW of capacity was moved from the price floor to prices above \$-3/MWh. The combination of rebidding to higher prices before the trading interval and in response to price spikes at the floor saw all trading intervals higher than the forecast price 4 hours prior.

For the 5.30 pm trading interval, demand was close to forecast and availability was 415 MW higher than forecast, both four hours prior. Higher availability was mainly due to Origin Energy adding in 110 MW of capacity offered at the price floor and higher than forecast wind generation. At 5.04 pm (effective 5.15 pm) Origin Energy rebid 114 MW of energy from \$115/MWh to the price floor, citing increased NEM demand as the reason. At 5.30 pm demand dropped by 77 MW and the dispatch price fell to the price floor for one dispatch interval.

## Saturday, 19 October

**Table 18: Price, Demand and Availability**

Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
11 am	-117.52	10.24	-1000.00	641	636	660	2726	2602	2648
Midday	-154.54	-100.00	-1000.00	673	547	592	2691	2595	2642
1.30 pm	-158.38	-1000.00	-1000.00	576	485	522	2653	2664	2627

At times, AEMO may need to override the normal dispatch process to maintain system security. On this day AEMO had directed a gas plant in South Australia, triggering an intervention event. Special pricing arrangements apply for all significant price events on 19 October in all regions following an intervention in the market.

For the 11 am trading interval, demand was close to forecast and availability was 124 MW higher than forecast, four hours prior. The higher availability was due to higher than forecast wind generation, the majority of which was priced below \$0/MWh. At 10.40 am a 66 MW increase in wind generation saw the dispatch price fall to the floor and result in the lower than forecast price.

Prices were close to forecast for the midday trading interval.

For the 1.30 pm trading interval, demand was 91 MW higher than forecast and availability was close to forecast. In response to the dispatch price dropping to the price floor at 1.10 pm, participants rebid approximately 480 MW of capacity from the price floor to prices above \$150/MWh to avoid uneconomic dispatch, effective between 1.15 pm and 1.20 pm. This resulted in the dispatch price settling between \$32/MWh to \$41/MWh for the remainder of the trading interval. See Table 19 below.

**Table 19: Significant rebids**

Submitted time	Time effective	Participant	Station	Capacity rebid (MW)	Price from (\$/MWh)	Price to (\$/MWh)	Rebid reason
1.08 pm	1.15 pm	Trustpower	Snowtown WF	99	-1000	14700	1305 A SA1 5MIN PD RRP for 1315 (\$-1000.0) published at 1305 is 941.67% lower than 5min PD RRP published at 1300 (\$-96.0) - time of alert: 1308
1.08 pm	1.15 pm	EnergyAustralia	Waterloo WF	130	-1000	150	1308 A band adj to manage 5min negative DP SL
1.11 pm	1.20 pm	AGL Energy	Hallett 1 WF	85	-1000	300	1310-A~040 chg in AEMO disp~45 price increase VS PD SA \$39.23 VS -\$1000
1.11 pm	1.20 pm	AGL Energy	Hallett 2 WF	59	-1000	300	1310-A~040 chg in AEMO disp~45 price increase VS PD SA \$39.23 VS -\$1000
1.11 pm	1.20 pm	AGL Energy	North Brown Hill WF	109	-1000	300	1310-A~040 chg in AEMO DISP~45 price increase VS PD SA \$39.23 VS -\$1000

**Table 20: Price, Demand and Availability**

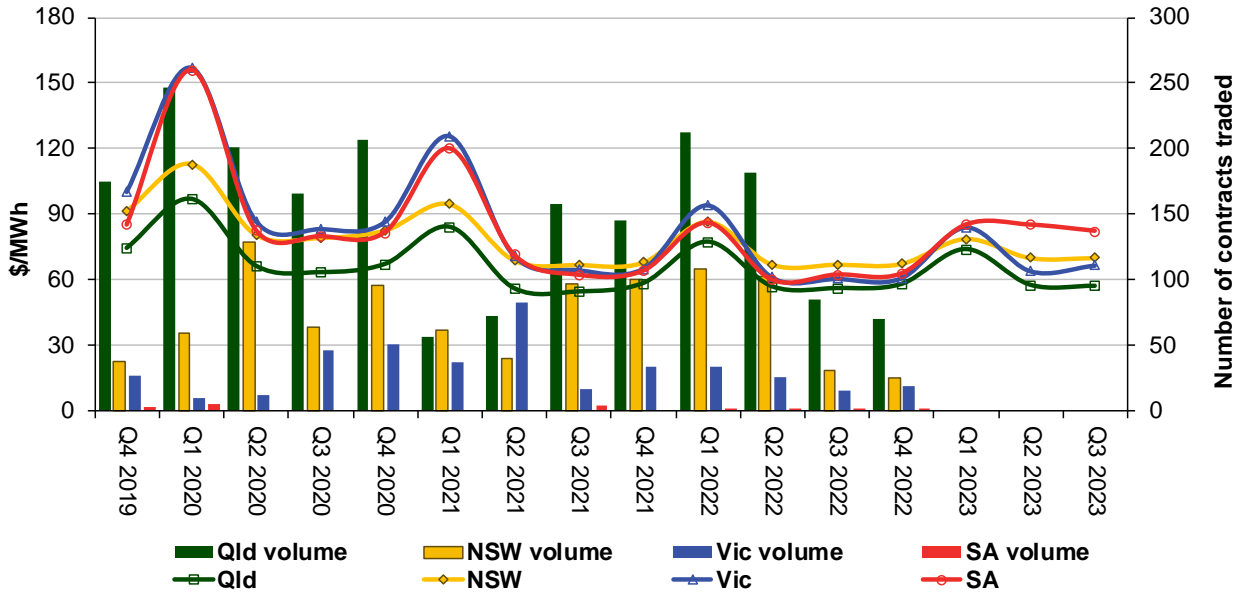
Time	Price (\$/MWh)			Demand (MW)			Availability (MW)		
	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast	Actual	4 hr forecast	12 hr forecast
4.30 pm	-107.28	-96.00	-1000.00	781	780	771	2758	2713	2652

Conditions at the time saw prices close to forecast.

## Financial markets

Figure 9 shows for all mainland regions the prices for base contracts (and total traded quantities for the week) for each quarter for the next four financial years.

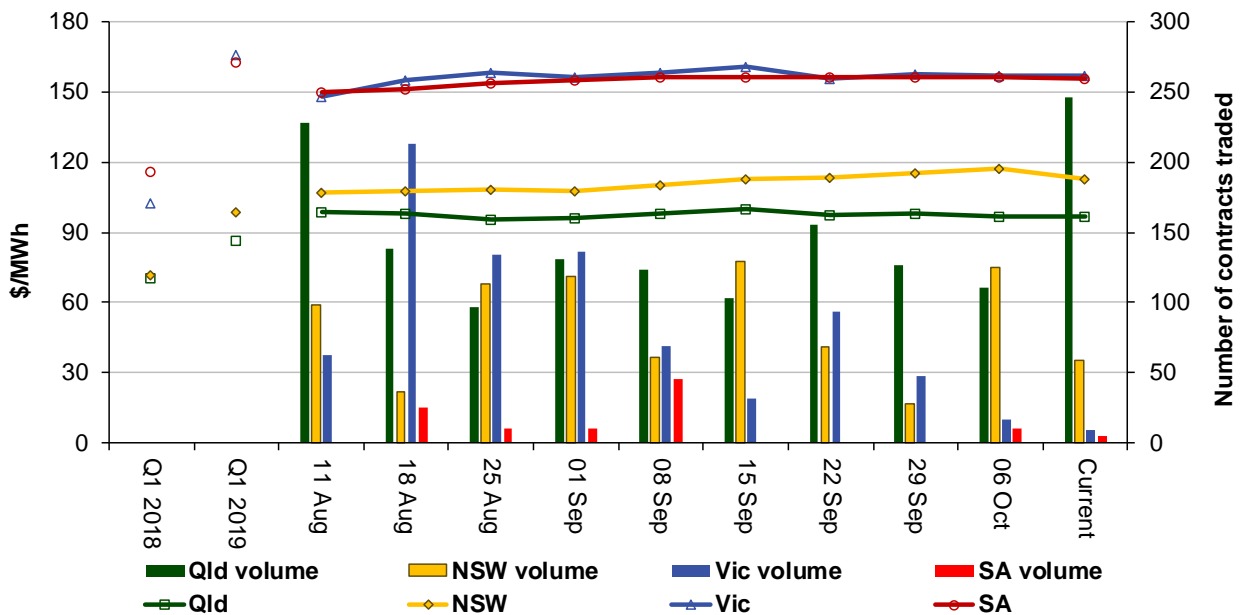
**Figure 9: Quarterly base future prices Q4 2018 – Q3 2022**



Source: ASXEnergy.com.au

Figure 10 shows how the price for each regional Q1 2020 base contract has changed over the last 10 weeks (as well as the total number of trades each week). The closing quarter 1 2018 and quarter 1 2019 prices are also shown. The AER notes that data for South Australia is less reliable due to very low numbers of trades.

**Figure 10: Price of Q1 2020 base contracts over the past 10 weeks (and the past 2 years)**

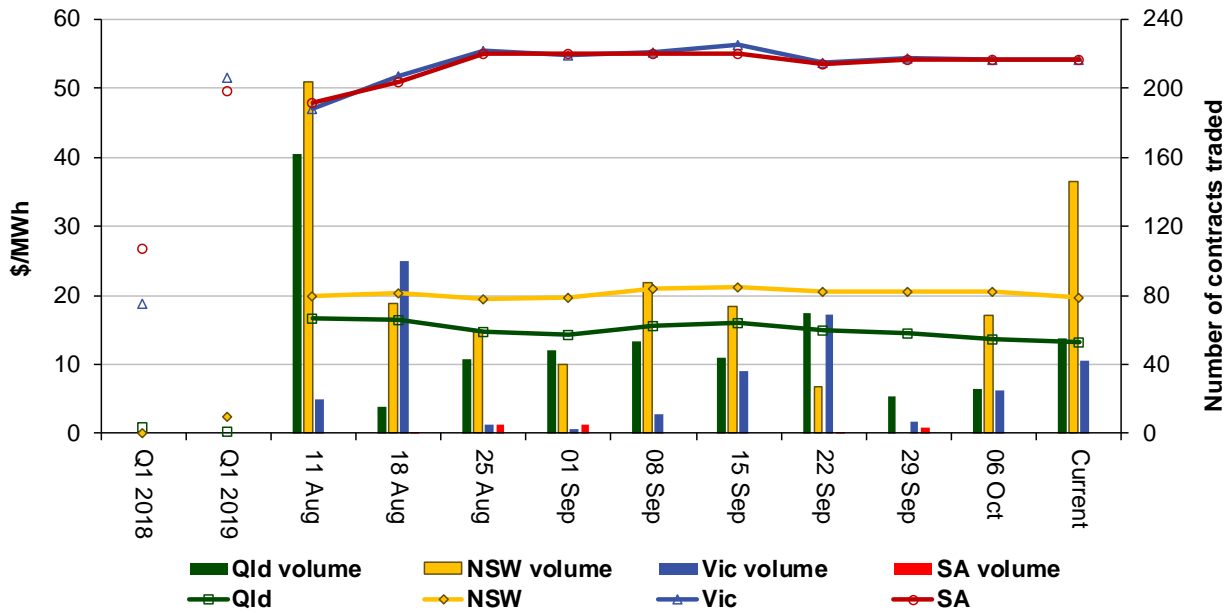


Note. Base contract prices are shown for each of the current week and the previous 9 weeks, with average prices shown for periods 1 and 2 years prior to the current year.

Source: ASXEnergy.com.au

Figure 11 shows how the price for each regional quarter 1 2020 cap contract has changed over the last 10 weeks (as well as the total number of trades each week). The closing quarter 1 2018 and quarter 1 2019 prices are also shown.

**Figure 11: Price of Q1 2020 cap contracts over the past 10 weeks (and the past 2 years)**



Source: ASXEnergy.com.au

Prices of other financial products (including longer-term price trends) are available in the [Industry Statistics](#) section of our website.

**Australian Energy Regulator**  
**November 2019**