

16 – 22 March 2014

Weekly summary

Prices were relatively stable compared to the previous week. The ex post price in Brisbane on Tuesday 18 March reached \$5.97/GJ (see figure 4.1) due to under forecast demand and a steep offer curve.

Long term statistics and explanatory material

The AER has published an [explanatory note](#) to assist with interpreting the data presented in its weekly gas market reports. The AER also publish a range of [longer term statistics](#) on the performance of the gas sector including gas prices, production, pipeline flows and consumer demand.

Market overview

Figure 1 sets out the average daily prices (\$/GJ) in the Victorian Declared Wholesale Market (**VGM or Victorian gas market**) and for the Sydney (**SYD**), Adelaide (**ADL**) and Brisbane (**BRI**) Short Term Trading Market hubs (**STTM**) for the current week compared to historical averages.

Figure 1: Average daily prices – all markets (\$/GJ)¹

	Victoria	Sydney	Adelaide	Brisbane
16 Mar - 22 Mar 2014	3.83	3.67	3.98	4.13
% change from previous week	-1	-5	2	1
13-14 financial YTD	3.96	4.13	4.47	5.10
% change from previous financial YTD	-12	-21	-12	-11

Figure 2 compares average weekly gas prices, ancillary market payments and scheduled injections against historical averages for the Victorian gas market.

Figure 2: Victorian gas market

	Price (\$/GJ)	Ancillary payments (\$000)*	BOD forecast demand quantity (TJ)
16 Mar - 22 Mar 2014	3.83	-	339
% change from previous week	-1	-	12
13-14 financial YTD	3.96	-	512
% change from previous financial YTD	-12	-	-5

* Note: only positive ancillary payments, reflecting system constraints will be shown here.

More detailed analysis on the VGM is provided in section 1.

Figures 3 to 5 show average ex ante and ex post gas prices, Market Operator Service (**MOS**) balancing gas service payments together with the related daily demand quantities against historical averages for the Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane STTM hubs, respectively.

¹ The weighted average daily imbalance price applies for Victoria.

Figure 3: Sydney STTM

	Ex ante price (\$/GJ)	Ex post price (\$/GJ)	MOS payments (\$000)	Ex ante quantity (TJ)	Ex post quantity (TJ)
16 Mar - 22 Mar 2014	3.67	3.50	4.39	215	213
% change from previous week	-5	-6	-26	3	4
13-14 financial YTD	4.13	3.98	11.10	234	229
% change from previous financial YTD	-21	-27	2	-1	-3

Figure 4: Adelaide STTM

	Ex ante price (\$/GJ)	Ex post price (\$/GJ)	MOS payments (\$000)	Ex ante quantity (TJ)	Ex post quantity (TJ)
16 Mar - 22 Mar 2014	3.98	3.93	2.59	42	42
% change from previous week	2	0	4	13	12
13-14 financial YTD	4.47	4.47	15.44	65	65
% change from previous financial YTD	-12	-11	93	-3	-1

Figure 5: Brisbane STTM

	Ex ante price (\$/GJ)	Ex post price (\$/GJ)	MOS payments (\$000)	Ex ante quantity (TJ)	Ex post quantity (TJ)
16 Mar - 22 Mar 2014	4.13	4.57	0.73	146	151
% change from previous week	1	3	-16	-3	-1
13-14 financial YTD	5.10	5.21	1.58	150	150
% change from previous financial YTD	-11	-9	-37	2	3

More detailed analysis of the STTM hubs is found in sections 2 to 4.

Section 5 provides analysis on production and pipeline flows on the National Gas Bulletin Board (**Bulletin Board**), as well as gas powered generation (**GPG**) volumes in each state, and section 6 provides information on the gas supply hub at Wallumbilla.

Significant Market Events or Issues this week

On 19 and 20 March, Sydney saw MOS decrease services allocated at 13.8 TJ and 12.7 TJ respectively. These requirements resulted from a large imbalance on Wednesday 19 March (caused by over forecast demand) and renominated delivery of gas on Thursday 20 March.

On Thursday 20 March, the Wallumbilla Gas Supply Hub in Queensland commenced operation (see section 6 at the end of this report). On Saturday, maintenance commenced at the Iona underground storage facility for the period 22 March to 4 April.

Detailed Market Analysis

16 – 22 March 2014

1 Victorian Declared Wholesale Market

In the Victorian gas market, gas is priced five times daily at 6 am, 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm and 10 pm. However, the volume weighted gas price on a gas day tends towards the 6 am price which is the schedule at which most gas is traded.

The main drivers of price are demand forecasts together with bids to inject or withdraw gas from the market. For each of the five gas day pricing schedules, figures 1.1 to 1.4 below show the daily prices, demand forecasts², and injection/withdrawal bids.³ Figure 1.5 provides information on which system injection points were used to deliver gas, in turn indicating the location and relative quantity of gas bids cleared through the market. Gas is priced five times daily (at 6 am, 10 am, 2 pm, 6 pm and 10 pm) when the first schedule and four reschedules apply, while the last 8-hour schedule has been separated into two 4-hour blocks for a consistent comparison with other scheduled injection volumes. The main drivers of price are demand forecasts and gas bids.⁴

Figure 1.1: Prices by schedule

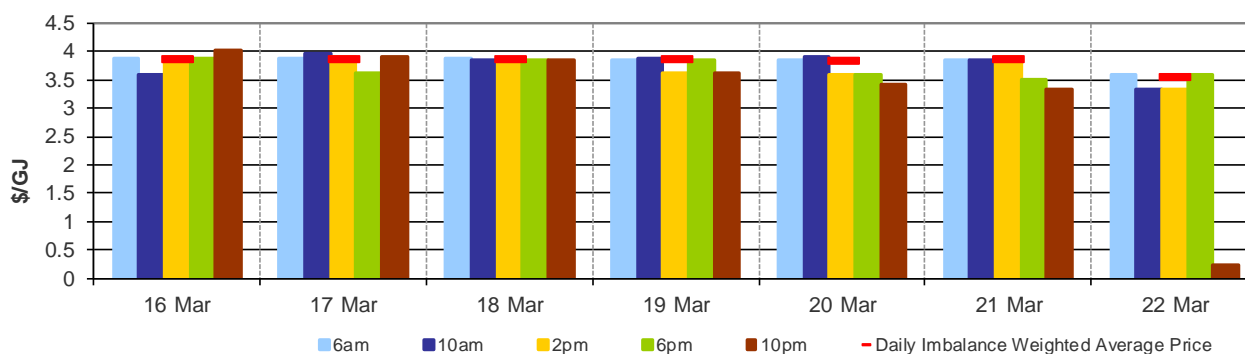
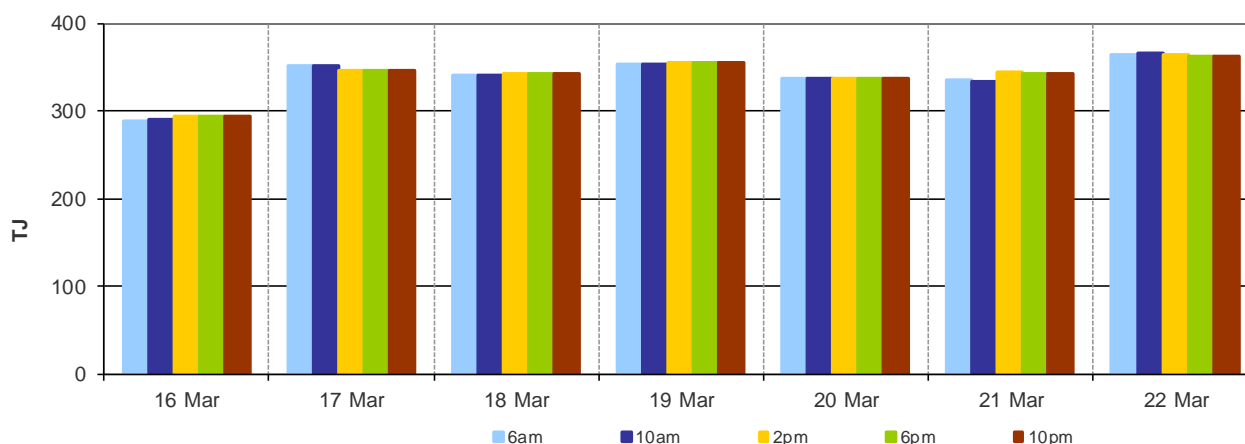


Figure 1.2: Demand forecasts



² These are Market Participants' aggregate demand forecasts adjusted for any override as applied by AEMO from time to time. The main driver of the amount of gas scheduled on a gas day are these forecasts which are forecasts that cannot respond to price or in other words is gas delivered regardless of the price.

³ The price might also be affected by transmission or production (contractual) constraints limiting how much gas can be delivered from a locale or System Injection Point (SIP) from time to time.

⁴ The price might also be affected by transmission or production (contractual) constraints limiting how much gas can be delivered from a locale or SIP from time to time.

Figure 1.3: Injection bids by price bands

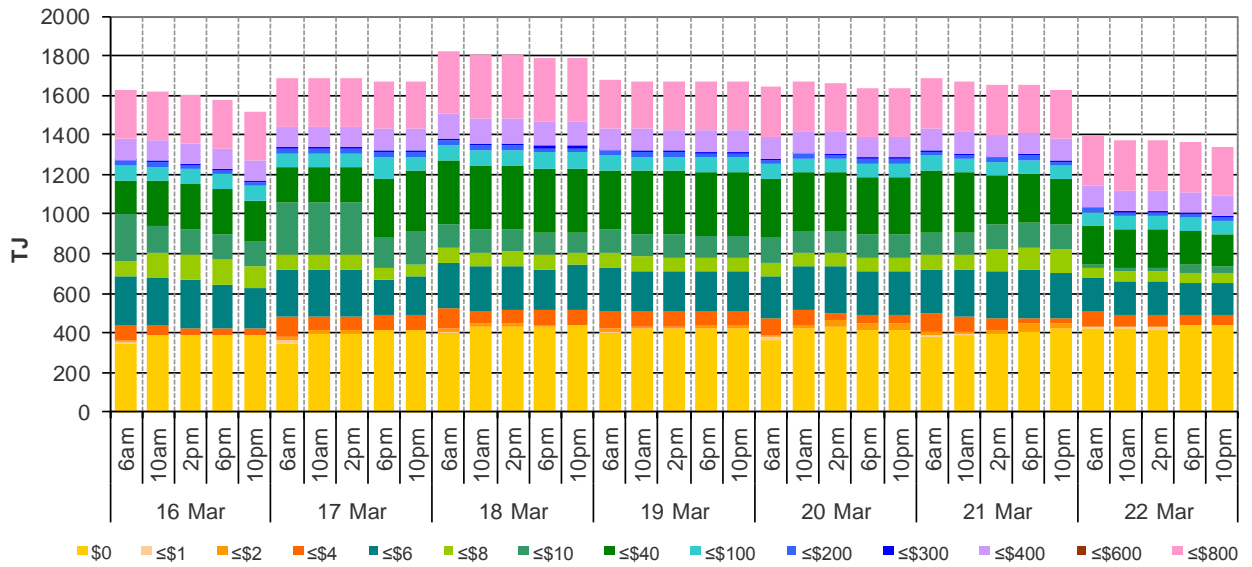


Figure 1.4: Withdrawal bids by price bands

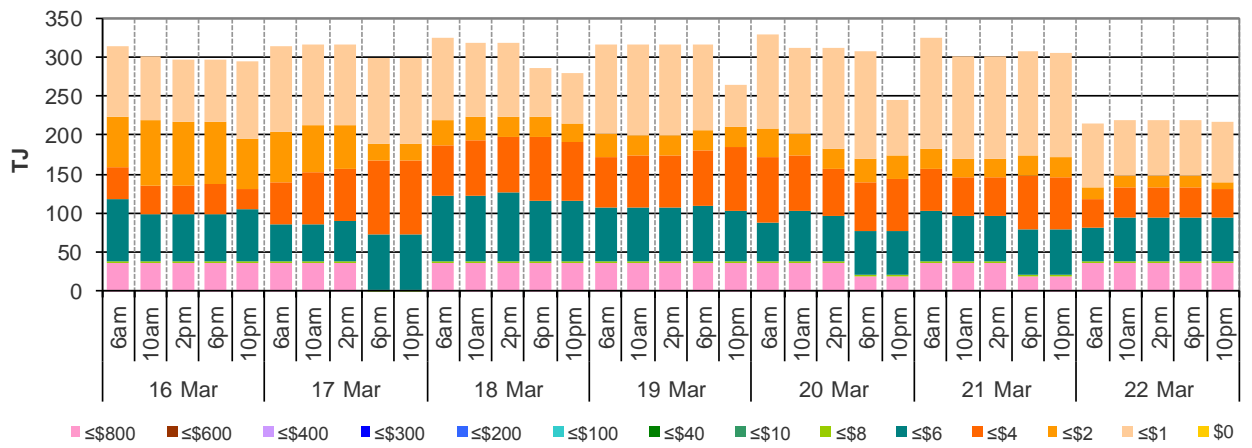
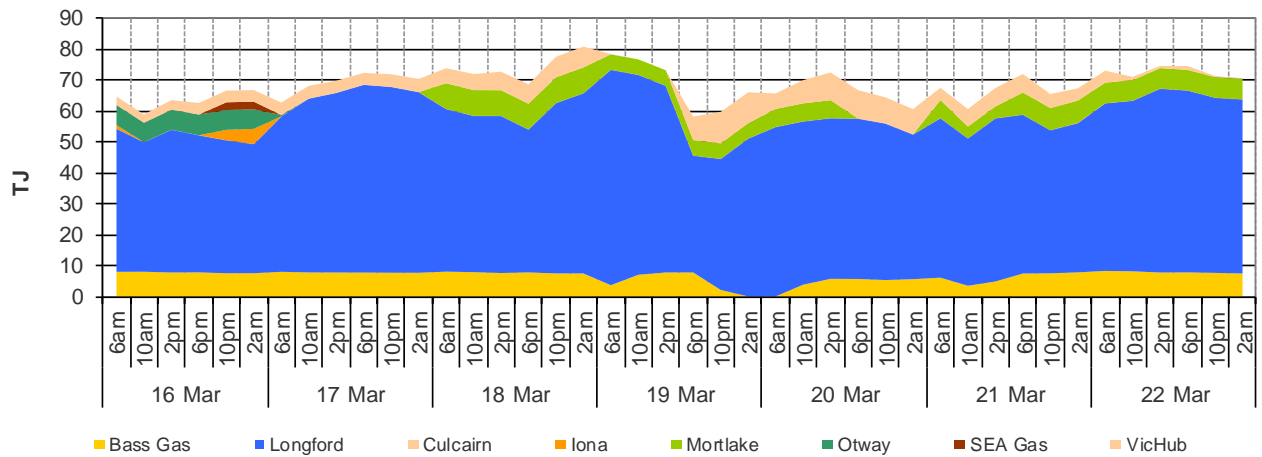


Figure 1.5: Metered Injections by System Injection Point



2 Sydney STTM

In each STTM hub, gas is priced once before each gas day (the ex ante price) and once after the gas day (the ex post price). The main drivers of ex ante and ex post prices are demand forecasts, together with participant offers and offers to inject or bids to withdraw gas traded through the hub.⁵ Prices before and after the gas day may also vary depending on how much gas is scheduled before the gas day (setting the ex ante price) and how much gas is consumed in the hub on a gas day (setting the ex post price).

Market Operator Service balancing gas (MOS) payments arise because the amount of gas nominated on pipelines for delivery on a gas day will either exceed or fall short, by some amount, of the amount of gas consumed in the hub. In such circumstances, MOS payments are made to participants for providing a service to park gas on a pipeline or to loan gas from a pipeline to the hub.⁶

Figures 2.1 and 2.2 show daily prices, demand, offers and bids. Figures 2.3 and 2.4 show gas scheduled and allocated on pipelines, indicating the location and relative quantity of gas offers across pipelines and also the amount of MOS allocated for each pipeline.

Figure 2.1: SYD STTM daily ex ante and ex post prices and quantities

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ex ante price (\$/GJ)	3.66	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.63	3.36	3.36
Ex ante quantity (TJ)	192	230	228	228	222	217	186
Ex post price (\$/GJ)	3.66	3.90	3.68	3.36	3.68	2.84	3.36
Ex post quantity (TJ)	192	230	226	216	224	214	189

Figure 2.2 (a): Daily hub offers in price bands (\$/GJ)

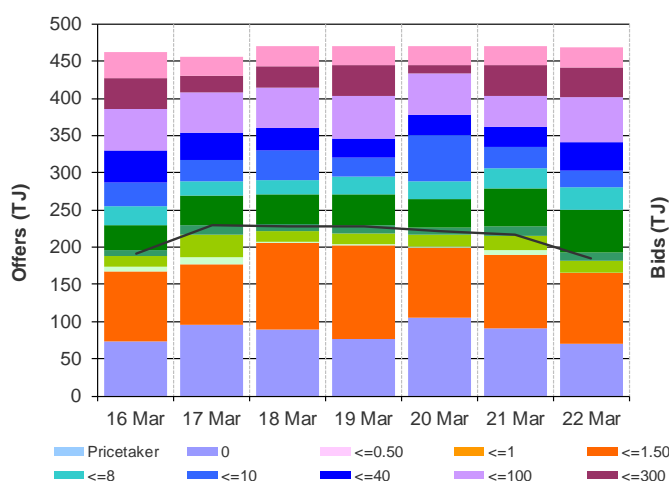
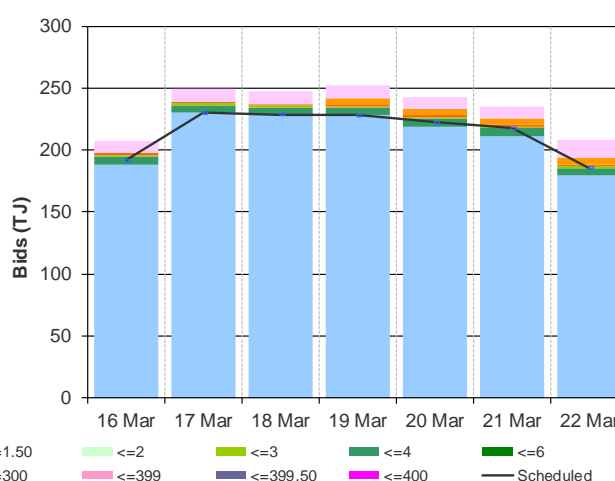


Figure 2.2 (b): Daily hub bids in price bands (\$/GJ)



⁵ The main driver of the amount of gas scheduled on a gas day is the 'price-taker' bid, which is forecast hub demand that cannot respond to price and which must be delivered, regardless of the price.

⁶ MOS service payments involve a payment for a MOS increase service when the actual quantity delivered exceeds final gas nominations for delivery to a hub, and a payment for a MOS decrease service when the actual quantity delivered is less than final nominations. As well as a MOS 'service' payment, as shown in figure 2.4, MOS providers are paid for or pay for the quantity of MOS sold into the market or bought from the market (MOS 'commodity' payments/charges).

Figure 2.3: SYD net scheduled and allocated gas volumes (excluding MOS) by STTM facility

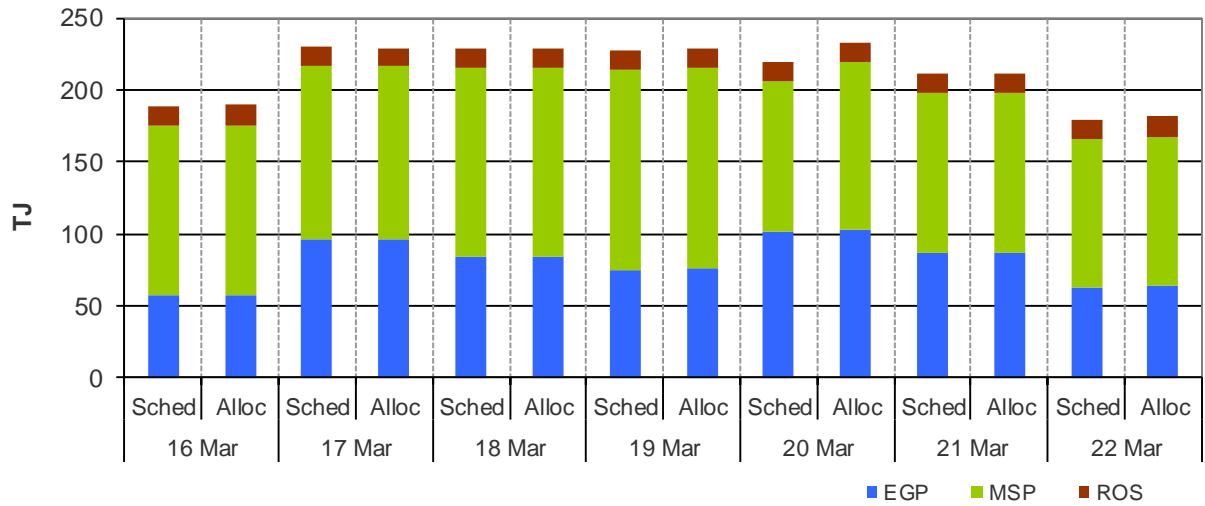


Figure 2.4 (a): SYD STTM MOS allocations (TJ)

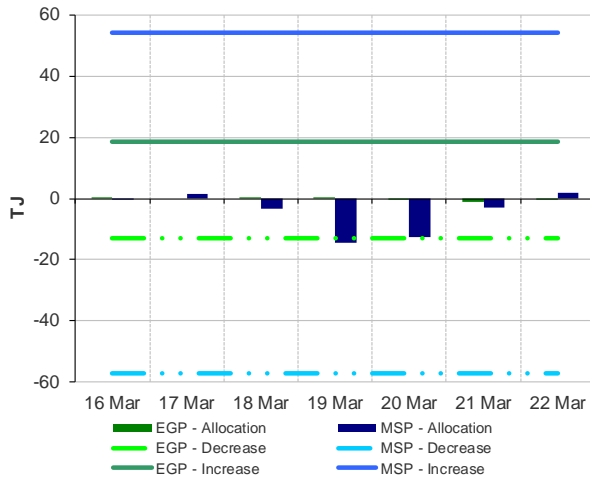
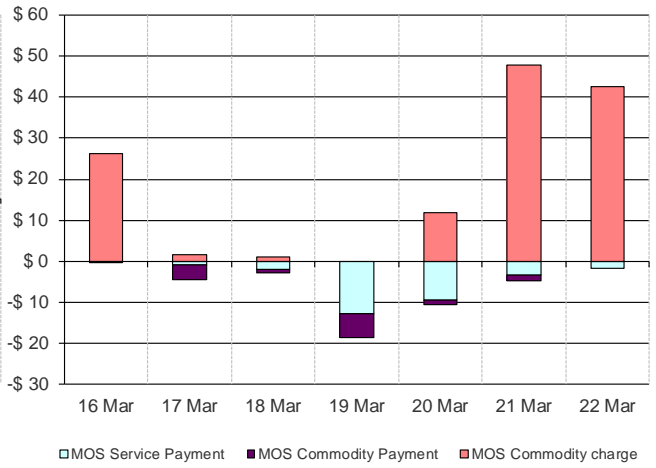


Figure 2.4 (b): Service payments and commodity payments/charges (\$'000)



3 Adelaide STTM

The Adelaide STTM hub functions in the same way as the Sydney STTM hub. The same data that was presented for the Sydney hub is presented for the Adelaide hub in the figures below.

Figure 3.1: ADL STTM daily ex ante and ex post prices and quantities

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ex ante price (\$/GJ)	4.10	4.14	3.89	3.90	3.89	4.08	3.88
Ex ante quantity (TJ)	33	42	44	45	43	46	43
Ex post price (\$/GJ)	4.10	4.14	3.90	3.90	3.89	4.00	3.60
Ex post quantity (TJ)	34	45	45	46	43	43	38

Figure 3.2 (a): Daily hub offers in price bands (\$/GJ)

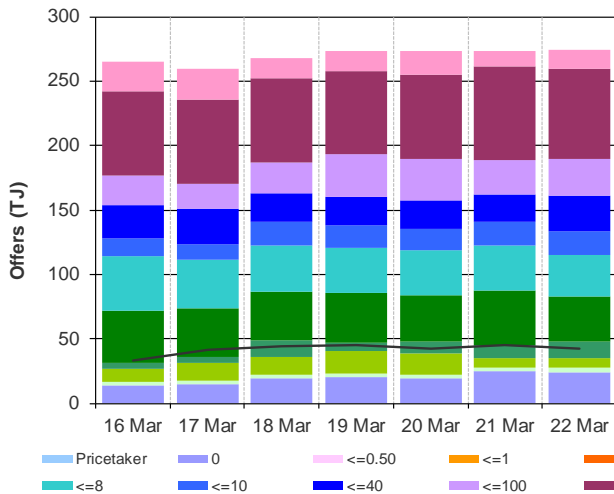


Figure 3.2 (b): Daily hub bids in price bands (\$/GJ)

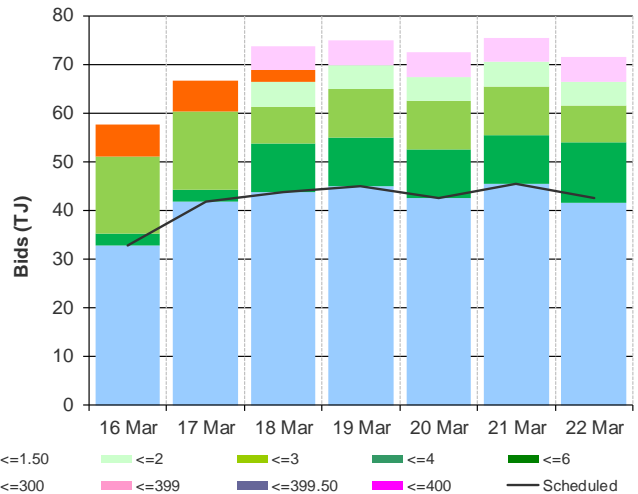


Figure 3.3: ADL net scheduled and allocated gas volumes (excluding MOS) by STTM facility

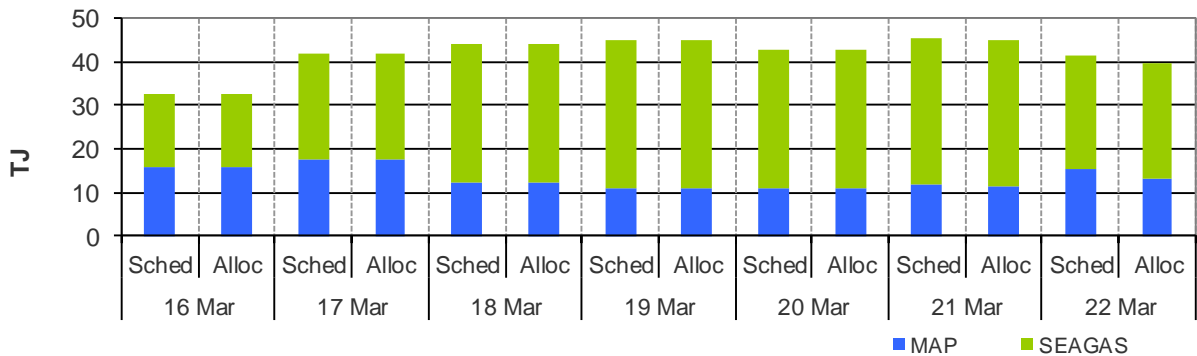


Figure 3.4 (a): ADL STTM MOS allocations (TJ)

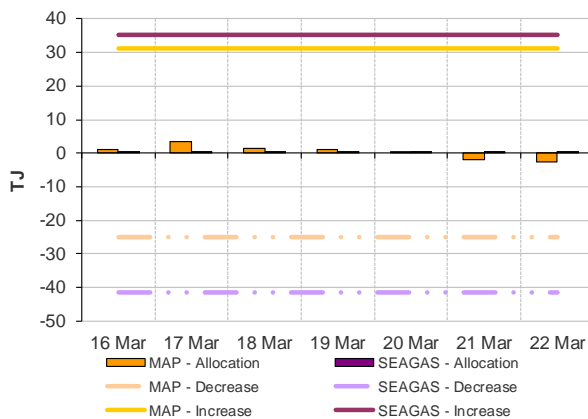
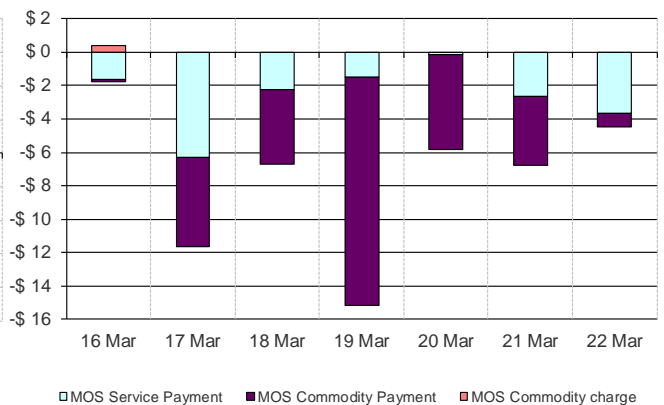


Figure 3.4 (b): Service payments and commodity payments/charges (\$000)



4 Brisbane STTM

The Brisbane STTM hub functions in the same way as the Sydney STTM hub. The same data that was presented for the Sydney hub is presented for the Brisbane hub in the figures below.

Figure 4.1: BRI STTM daily ex ante and ex post prices and quantities

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ex ante price (\$/GJ)	4.02	4.15	4.49	4.15	3.97	3.97	4.16
Ex ante quantity (TJ)	133	149	152	155	159	147	127
Ex post price (\$/GJ)	4.08	4.72	5.97	4.72	4.12	4.15	4.25
Ex post quantity (TJ)	136	153	159	162	162	153	130

Figure 4.2 (a): Daily hub offers in price bands (\$/GJ)

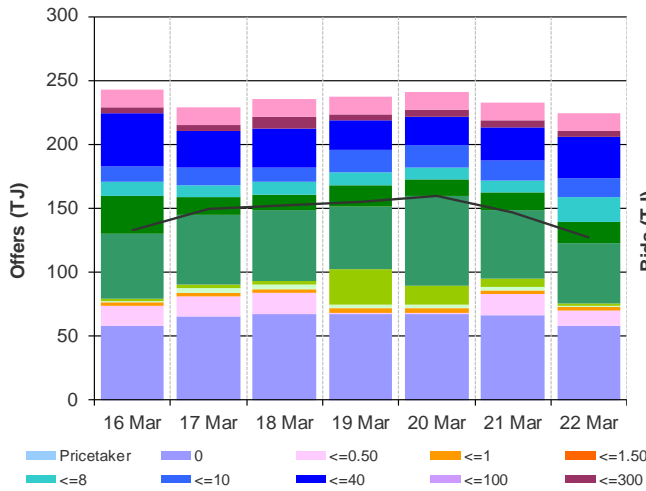


Figure 4.2 (b): Daily hub bids in price bands (\$/GJ)

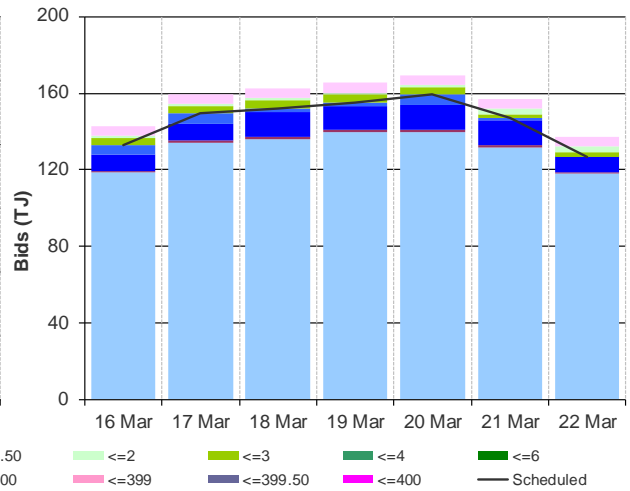


Figure 4.3: BRI net scheduled and allocated gas volumes (excluding MOS) by STTM facility

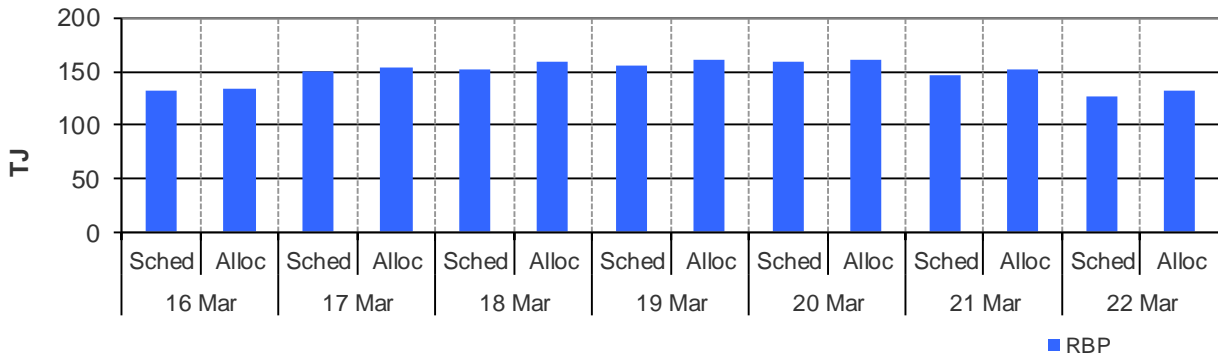


Figure 4.4 (a): BRI STTM MOS allocations (TJ)

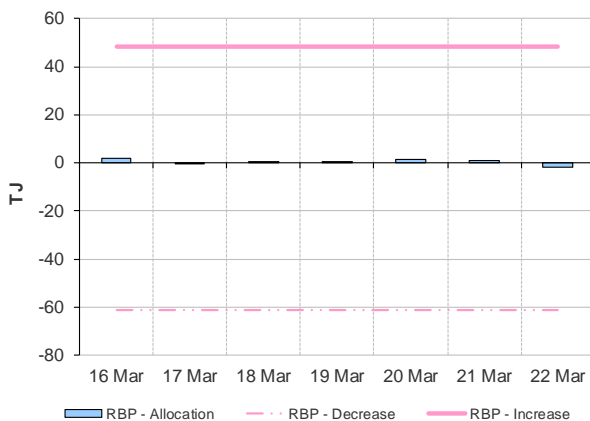
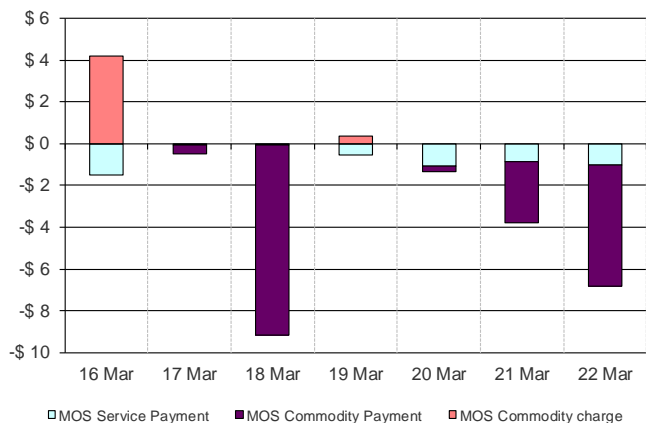


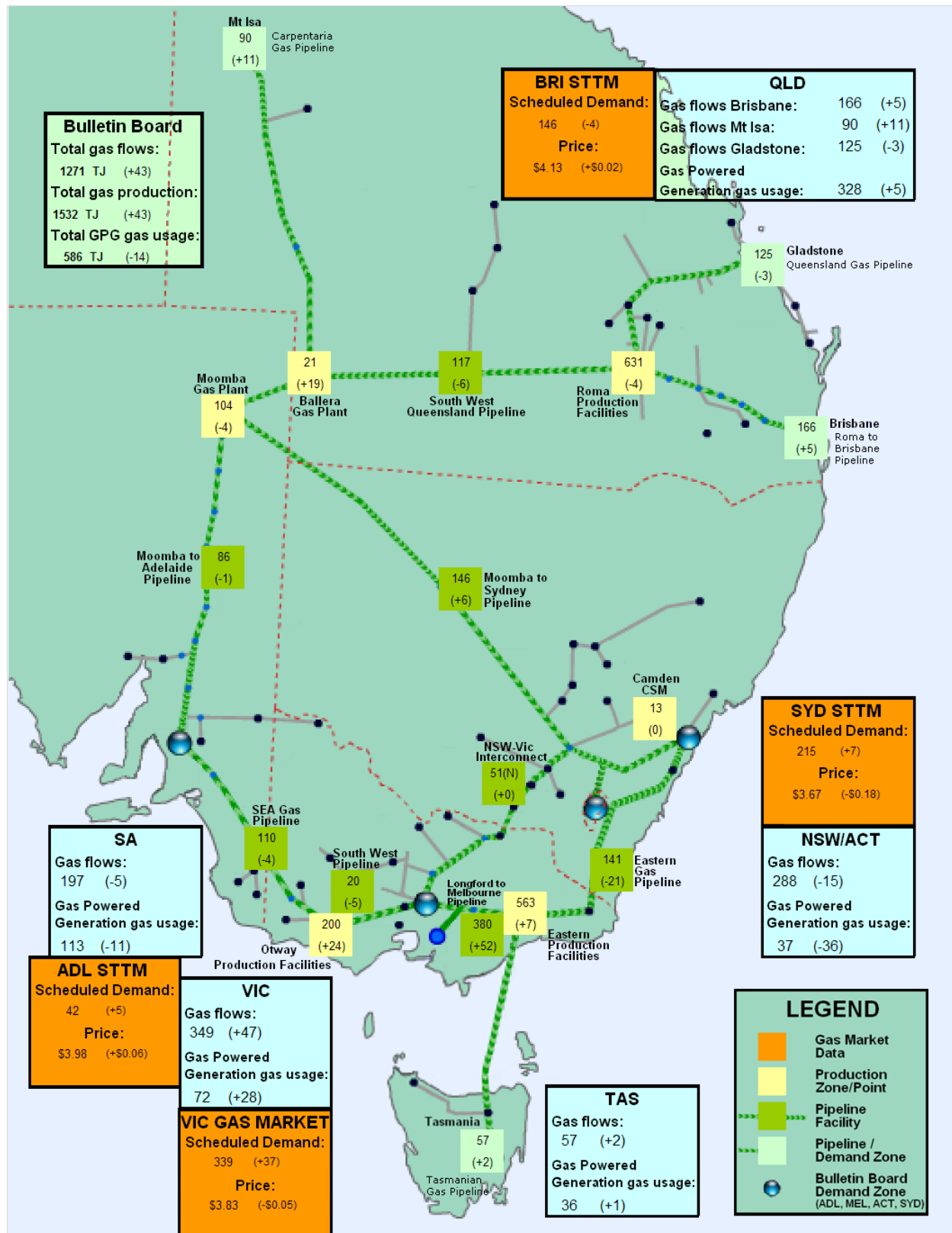
Figure 4.4 (b): Service payments and commodity payments/charges (\$000)



5 National Gas Bulletin Board

Figure 5.1 shows average daily actual flows for the current week in the aqua boxes⁷ from the Bulletin Board (changes from the previous week's average are shown in brackets). Gas powered generation (GPG) gas usage is also shown in each region in the aqua boxes. In the orange boxes average daily scheduled volumes and prices for each gas market are provided.

Figure 5.1: Gas market data (\$/GJ, TJ); Production, Consumption and Pipeline flows (TJ)



⁷ Regional Gas Flows: SA = MAP + SEAGAS, VIC = SWP + LMP - negative(NSW-VIC), NSW/ACT = EGP + MSP, TAS = TGP, QLD (Brisbane) = RBP, QLD (Mt Isa) = CGP, QLD (Gladstone) = QGP
GPG volumes include gas usage that may not show up on Bulletin Board pipeline flows.

6 Gas Supply Hub

In 2014, the Australian Energy Market Operator Limited (AEMO) established a gas trading exchange known as the Gas Supply Hub at the request of the Standing Council on Energy and Resources, and in accordance with the National Gas Law and National Gas Rules (NGR).

The Gas Supply Hub, which after a market trial period began operation on 20 March, was established for the trading of gas at Wallumbilla because it is located in close proximity to significant gas supply sources and demand locations and is a major transit point between Queensland and the gas markets on Australia's east coast.

Products listed on the exchange are for the sale and purchase of gas delivered at one of the three major connecting pipelines at Wallumbilla – the Queensland Gas Pipeline (QGP), the South West Queensland Pipeline (SWQP) and the Roma to Brisbane Pipeline (RBP). There are separate products for each pipeline (each pipeline is considered a Trading Location, and each has a number of delivery points) and delivery period (daily, day-ahead, balance-of-day and weekly).

Under the Gas Rules the AER has responsibility for monitoring Gas Supply Hub members' compliance with rights and obligations specified in the Rules, including market conduct rules. The market conduct rules seek to protect the integrity of the market by prohibiting members, amongst other matters, from manipulating prices and acting fraudulently. The Rules also create obligations in relation to submitting orders, exchange of information and performance of contracts. The market conduct rules are classified as civil penalty and conduct provisions in accordance with the National Gas Regulations.

The AER has developed mechanisms to monitor market outcomes and members' activities. As the market commenced operation on Thursday 20 March 2014, information on trades undertaken will be presented in the next weekly gas report (covering a full week of operation).