



FACT SHEET: IT'S TIME TO CHANGE HOW WE USE POWER



The cost of delivering electricity to you is changing... and this could mean you'll be better off.

The Electricity Market Is Changing

The electricity market in Australia is changing rapidly. A move towards renewable energy, the uptake of solar panels, and now battery storage, continues to grow. People aren't just consuming electricity anymore, they're generating it and selling it back to the network.

In response to these changes, we are reviewing the way we deliver power, and the network charges that we pass on to our customers. Network charges cover the cost of delivering electricity to you, and they make up close to half of your electricity bill.

We each play a part in the big picture

We all have our habits, especially after a day at work. It could be turning on a couple of appliances in the evening like the dishwasher and washing machine while the dinner cooks in the oven and pumping up the heater while we sit down to watch our favourite show. While this seems natural to us, we can't see that thousands of other people around the state are doing the same thing at the same time. And we can't see the load that this is placing on our power network.

Think of it like traffic on the road. If you have to travel to work at peak times, you know how busy it can get, and if you can, you try to avoid it. We change our habits to leave earlier or later, or we look for alternate ways of getting to our destination. Sure, the government could build more roads, but that would be an enormous cost to cater for a couple of hours of peak traffic Monday to Friday.

Likewise, we could build extra power infrastructure for peak times, but that would increase the costs to the network, and to you.

It costs the network more to deliver electricity at peak times of day - when everyone is using their appliances. This is because it costs us more to deliver enough electricity to meet the demand.



Changing just one habit could make all the difference

Instead, what if, our power network rewarded people for using power at quieter times with lower charges? What if we put our dishwasher on last thing at night, or if we saved the washing for the weekend?

Changing just one habit would add up over a year. Especially, if everyone made a change. It could be as simple as not running everything at once. Changing just one habit could make all the difference.

There are good reasons to switch to a Time of Use tariff

Talk to your electricity retailer about swapping to a tariff that is charged according to when you use your electricity. Your electricity retailer refers to this as a 'Time of Use' tariff.

There are benefits to using a Time of Use tariff

One tariff replaces multiple tariffs, so reduced charges that apply in off-peak periods, also apply all weekend, giving you the opportunity to save - with some planning.

Three ways to manage your electricity usage on a Time of Use tariff



1. Shift when you use your appliances

Shift the use of appliances that use a lot of power to off-peak times when charges are lower.

If power is used in off-peak periods on the Time of Use tariff then a lower price applies. This includes all weekend. If you're away from home, or busy during off-peak periods, then consider using timers to run high demand appliances (like clothes dryers) at these times.



2. Stagger your usage through the week

Try not to run multiple appliances all at once as this increases demand on the network. Instead, stagger your usage whenever possible.



3. Save money with energy efficient appliances

Buying appliances with the highest energy rating will help decrease the demand on the network and save you money in the long run.

TasNetworks provides electricity to more than 285,000 customers throughout Tasmania and is responsible for delivering your electricity. We own and manage the major infrastructure that carries electricity from generation source to you. This includes substations, transition towers and lines, power poles and wires.

- One tariff replaces multiple tariffs
- One off-peak price all weekend
- Savings for homes with solar panels

With just one tariff, customers with solar panels can use the energy they generate for anything, including hot water and home heating.

What do we mean by peak?

Peak periods occur in the morning and at night - when most people get up (between 7am and 10am) and when they get home from work (between 4pm and 9pm). These are the times when a lot of people are using their appliances and there is high demand on the network.



What do we mean by off-peak?

Off-peak times are all the times outside of the peak periods and occur when there are less people using the network. Because everyone does different things on the weekend, their usage is more spread out and there is less demand. That's why weekends are counted as off-peak periods.

What is a tariff?

A tariff is how you are charged for energy. It includes both fixed and variable charges.

What's an electricity retailer?

In Tasmania there is one residential electricity retailer who buys network services from TasNetworks and bills householders according to usage.

For more information:

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