



**Gas Appliance
Manufacturers
Association of
Australia**

Gas Prices in Victoria: Less than you'd Think

Australian Gas Networks

Natural gas has been a popular power source for Victorians for many years. The reason? It's affordable and performs in all seasons.

Natural gas isn't something everyone thinks about ahead of summer. While the Melbourne spring has been a little cooler and wetter than usual (which inevitably leads to higher heating bills), the summer's bringing with it warmer weather. This benefits our vitamin D stores but it can also drain the bank when it comes to keeping cool using air conditioners.

The good news? The price of natural gas in Victoria has remained affordable, and its benefits extend beyond heating into all sorts of summer applications, including barbecues, fire pits and even cooling. That's right, cooling.

In fact, natural gas is one of the most popular power options in Victoria. Most homes are connected to the natural gas network, making it easy to hook up and maintain.

But not only does natural gas give superior performance, it's also a cheaper option than electricity when it comes to most appliances.

So what do the numbers actually look like?

A Melbourne family household using natural gas for hot water, cooking and central heating will spend on average \$1072 on gas per year - or \$1617 for the same applications using electricity. That's a huge \$545 saving - plus a 70% decrease in emissions. If that household uses natural gas for just hot water and cooking, they'll still save on average \$527 compared with their spend for the same electric appliances, plus reduce their emissions by 80%. [Read more here](#)

Competitive markets crucial to solar and storage future

Clean Energy Council - 27 March, 2017

The clean energy industry has welcomed a new inquiry into electricity prices announced by the Turnbull Government, which should ensure retail markets are competitive and that consumers looking to manage their own power bills through solar and battery storage are being treated fairly.

Clean Energy Council Chief Executive Kane Thornton said many households and businesses had installed their own solar power systems to combat high prices, but some are sceptical that competition is working fairly for them.

"The energy sector is changing rapidly and consumers should feel fully empowered to take control of their bills through technologies like solar, batteries and better energy efficiency. But currently the market rules in some regions mean that they don't get the full value from technologies like energy storage for example. This needs to change," Mr Thornton said.

"Clearly a competitive retail market is important, and retailers of solar and battery systems must be able to compete on a level playing field with traditional electricity retailers.

"Electricity prices are causing concern across the country, and giving the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission the power to fully investigate this issue makes sense.

"The eastern states have experienced the highest percentage spikes in power bills over the last decade, with prices more than doubling in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales. If the retail market isn't working properly, we should know why so that steps can be taken to address it.

"One of the big parts of this story is that Australia has not had clear and consistent energy and climate policy for the last decade, which means that investors have not felt confident to make timely and sensible investments in Australia's future energy system. [Read the full media release here](#)

Last Chance to Register - GAMAA Technical Committee meeting

When - Thursday 6 April 2017

Where: Ai Group - L2, 441 St Kilda Road Melbourne

Time: 10am to 2pm

RSVP: Essential for registration and catering purposes - please email associations@aigroup.com.au

All members are welcome to participate.

**GAS
Connections**