

Australia switches on gas during COVID winter

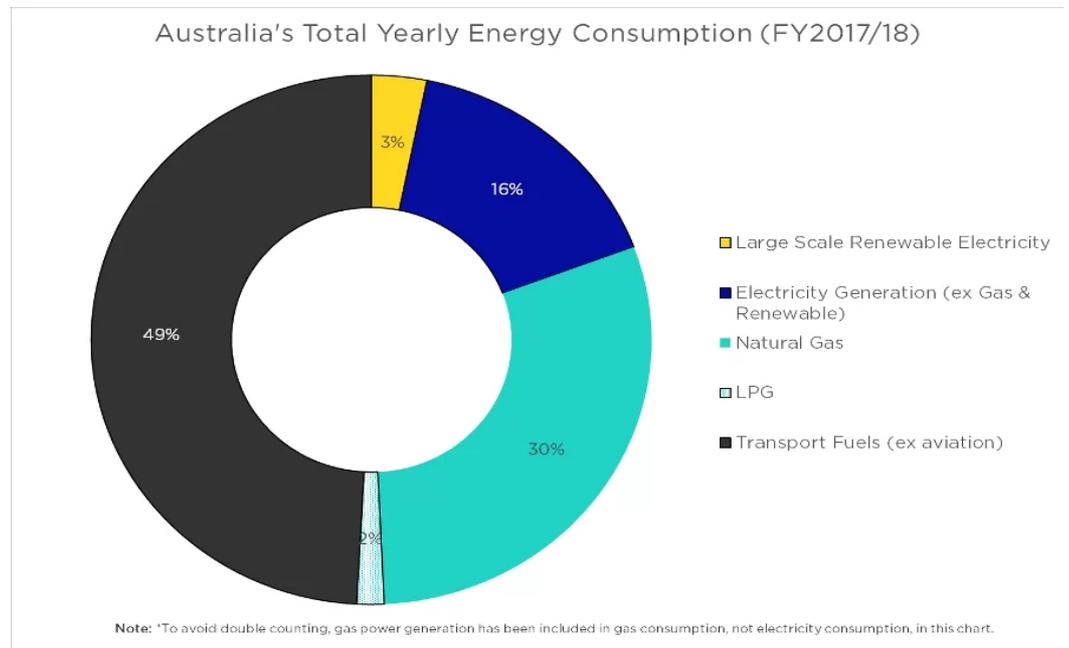
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Gas is a diverse fuel providing many benefits across the economy. It contributes about 26 per cent of domestic energy consumption and provides Australia's third-biggest export income.

....Energy consumption charts are generally presented for electricity and focussed on the National Electricity Market.

....Representations of total energy consumption should include the use of gas and transport fuels to paint a complete picture of how energy is used in Australia.

....Of the three sectors, transport fuels provide 49 per cent of the total energy consumption, gas 32 per cent (including LPG use across the country) and electricity 19 per cent. There is an overlap between gas and electricity as gas is used to generate electricity. This is explored in the individual break down by state.



....Gas contributes to many parts of the national economy, including to provide energy to households and businesses, electricity generation, feedstock to industrial processes and for exports.

....Within homes, it is also essential to provide space heating and hot water. More broadly, in the economy, it has diverse roles such as supporting businesses or being used by industry as both an energy source and a chemical feedstock (e.g. in fertiliser manufacturing).

....Gas also supports the renewable electricity generation and through its flexibility is allowing higher levels of renewables to be reached. Read the full article [here](#)

Shortening the road to hydrogen

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Hydrogen is already a proven commodity as a feedstock for industry, but more work needs to be completed before hydrogen can reach its full economic potential and its role to decarbonise transport, industry and gas networks.

.....A major difference between the UK funding and that of ARENA is that the UK allows hydrogen production from natural gas, combined with carbon capture and storage (CCS), to be included whereas ARENA requires that hydrogen needs to be produced from renewables for grant approval. There is significant flexibility to achieve that including on-site generation, surrendering of renewable energy certificates or entering into renewable electricity power purchase arrangements. This may be appropriate for research and development to lower the cost of renewable hydrogen produced in electrolyzers, but it may not necessarily be the right policy incentive to activate a hydrogen market – where hydrogen from lower-cost options should also be considered. Read the full article [here](#)



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