





14 May 2024

2024/25 price list for the Western Power network

Publication of determination

The Economic Regulation Authority has published its <u>determination</u> on Western Power's 2024/25 price list.

Western Power is required to submit its price list for approval under Chapter 8 of the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004*. The ERA must approve the proposed prices if they are consistent with Western Powers approved access arrangement, including the tariff structure statement, and the Access Code.

Apart from generators and some very large customers, network charges are not directly charged to end users. Network charges are paid by retailers. The retailers decide how those charges will be passed on to end users along with wholesale electricity and other related costs.

The average increase in network tariffs from the 2023/24 price list is 9.5 per cent. Charges for individual customers will vary depending on the type of tariff they are on, and their usage.

The average increase is higher than forecast in the ERA's final decision for Western Power's fifth access arrangement, published on 31 March 2023, due to increases in the Tariff Equalisation Contribution and inflation.¹

The Western Australian Government determines the extent to which increases in network tariffs will affect regulated retail tariffs (charged to residential and small business customers) and regulated retail streetlighting tariffs (charged to local governments). The State Budget, released on 9 May 2024 stated that regulated retail tariffs will increase by 2.5 per cent, and regulated retail streetlight tariffs for the South West Interconnected System will increase by 4.26 per cent for the year 2024/25.

The ERA has required minor amendments to Western Power's proposed RT11 (distribution connected generators) and RT21/22 (residential and business multipart time-of-use) tariffs. These amendments do not affect the average increase in prices.

¹ Western Australia has a uniform tariff policy so that small use Synergy and Horizon Power customers are all charged the same rate. This includes customers in remote regions where the costs to supply electricity are considerably higher. The extra costs of supplying electricity to these areas is partially funded by the Tariff Equalisation Contribution (TEC) which is recovered from users of the Western Power network. The AA5 final decision was based on TEC forecasts of \$173 million for 2023/24, and \$179 million for 2024/25. The gazetted TEC, published after the final decision and 2023/24 price list approval, was \$197 million for 2023/24 and \$199 million for 2024/25. The total difference between the AA5 forecast and gazetted TEC was \$44 million. Without these changes to the TEC, the average increase in tariffs for 2024/25 would have been 7.01 per cent.

Forecast CPI in the AA5 final decision was 2.58 per cent. Actual CPI was 4.1 per cent.

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As required in last year's price list determination, the cost allocation and price path for the streetlight asset charge component of RT9 has been reviewed. The streetlight asset charge will increase by 5.5 per cent in 2024/25 and similar increases are forecast for 2025/26 and 2026/27.

The amended approved network prices, which will commence on 1 July 2024, are available on the <u>ERA's website</u>.

Further information

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