

April 2026

Statement of reasons: SA Power Networks' Annual Pricing Proposal

The AER approves SA Power Networks' 2026–27 pricing proposal which contains tariffs that are due to commence on 1 July 2026. SA Power Networks' approved tariffs are set out on [our website](#).

Estimated network cost movements

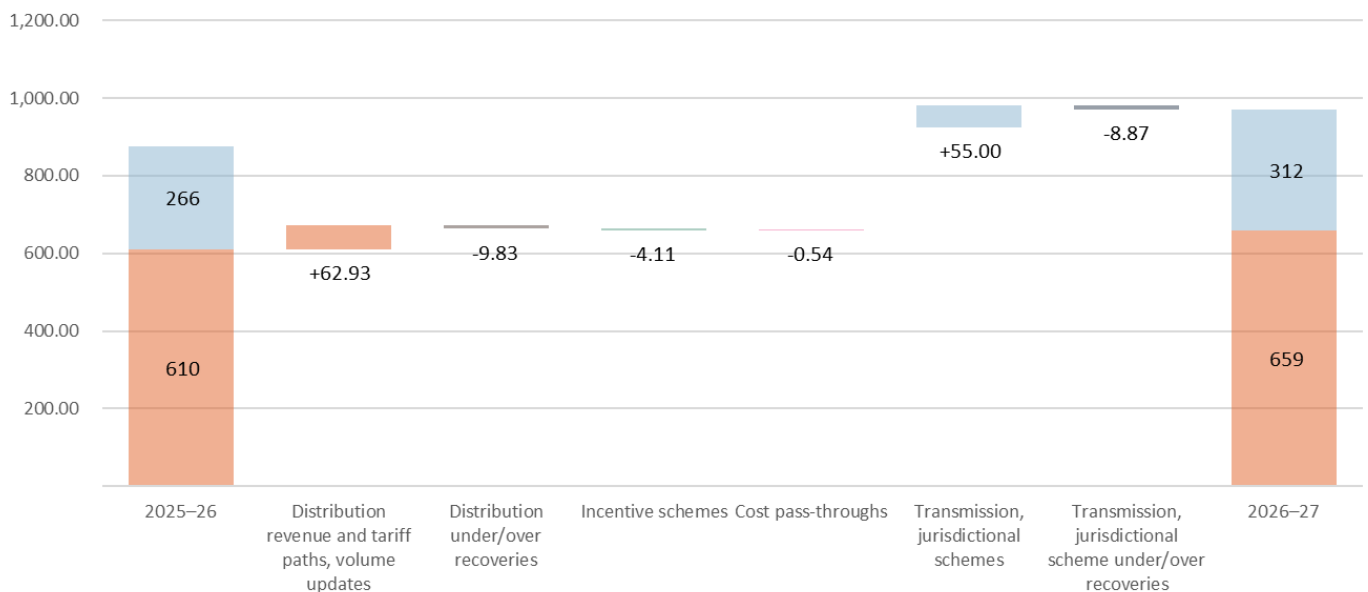
We estimate the average network cost movements below for SA Power Networks' customers in 2026–27, compared to 2025–26.

	Flat-rate tariff	Time-of-use tariff
Residential	+\$94.57	+\$77.18
Small business	+\$88.64	+\$83.17

The network cost movements reflect an increase in revenue that SA Power Networks is allowed to recover in 2026–27. This is partially offset by a forecast increase in consumption. We provide more detailed information on SA Power Networks' consumption forecasts in the following pages.

The increase in revenue is predominantly due to increased transmission costs (including costs related to the Firm Energy Reliability Mechanism), actual inflation and the revenue path set in the applicable determination. This is partially offset by the return of previously over-recovered revenue. These key drivers can be seen in Figures 1 through 4.¹

Figure 1 Residential flat-rate tariff: Average annual network cost movement

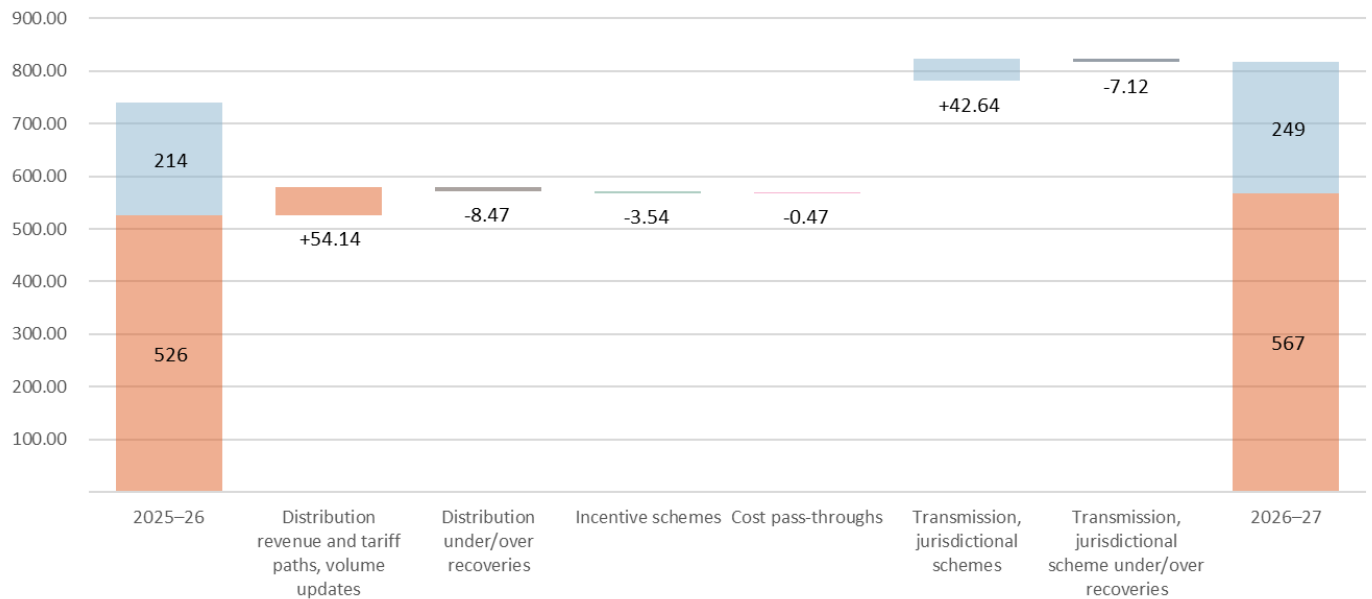


Source: AER analysis; SA Power Networks' 2026–27 pricing proposal.

Note: The above analysis assumes electricity usage of 4,420 kWh. This is based on the most recent data electricity usage and customer numbers reported in SA Power Networks' 2026–27 pricing proposal for the Residential Single Rate tariff.

¹ The columns in the chart represent the average annual network charge for relevant years. Within the columns, the orange columns represent the distribution and metering components of the approved network tariffs, including the impact of actual inflation. The blue columns represent revenues recovered on behalf of transmission networks and amounts related to schemes imposed by State or Territory Governments. These charts may differ to the revenue drivers to reflect distributors' differing application of these revenue drivers across tariffs.

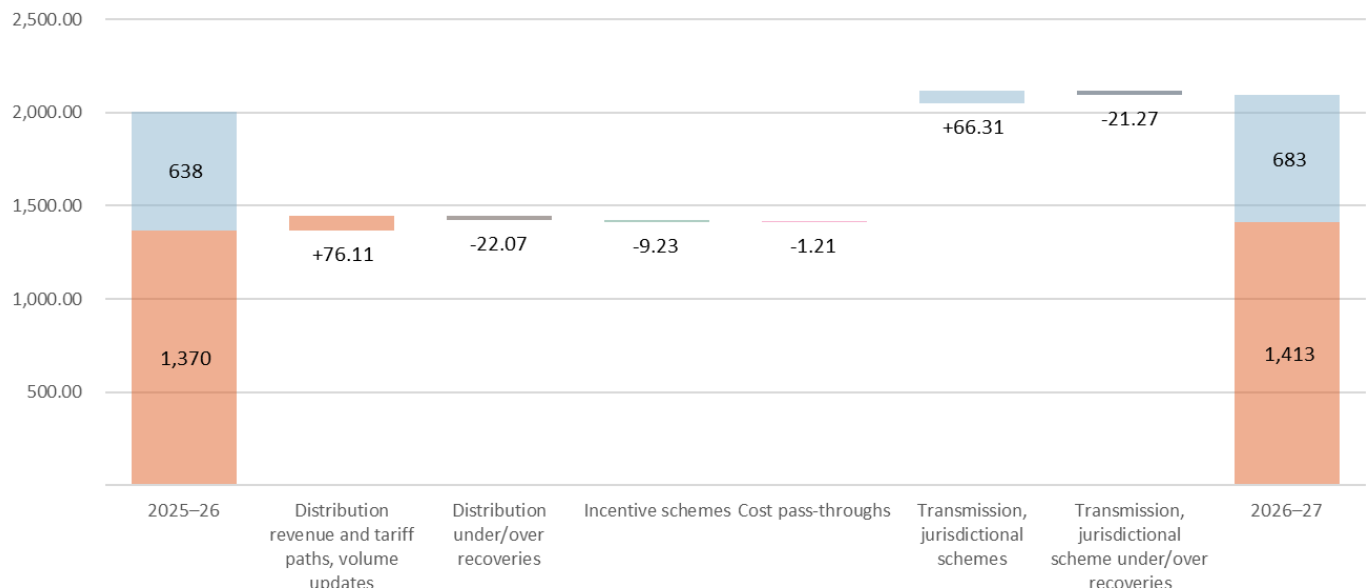
Figure 2 Residential time-of-use tariff: Average annual network cost movement



Source: AER analysis; SA Power Networks' 2026-27 pricing proposal.

Note: The above analysis assumes electricity usage of 2,164 kWh in the peak period, 611 kWh in the off-peak period, and 765 kWh in the solar period. This is based on the most recent data electricity usage and customer numbers reported in SA Power Networks' 2026-27 pricing proposal for the Residential Time of Use tariff.

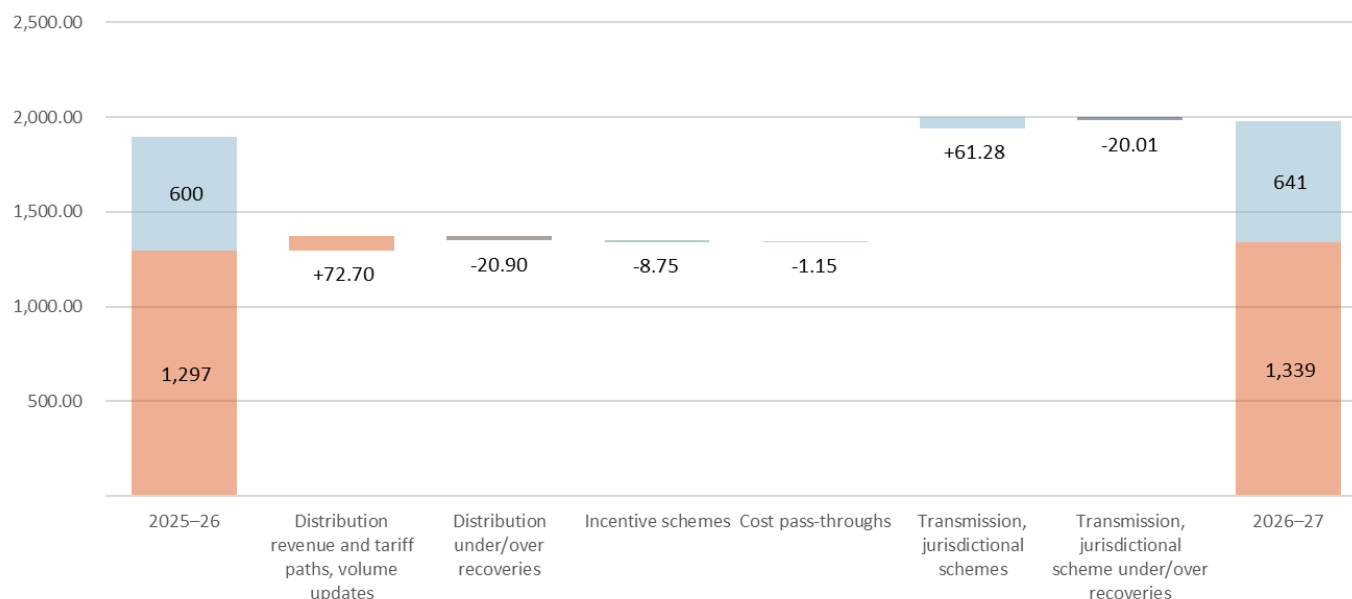
Figure 3 Small business flat-rate tariff: Average annual network cost movement



Source: AER analysis; SA Power Networks' 2026-27 pricing proposal.

Note: The above analysis assumes electricity usage of 9,636 kWh. This is based on the most recent data for electricity usage and customer numbers reported in SA Power Networks' 2026-27 pricing proposal for the Business Single Rate tariff.

Figure 4 Small business time-of-use tariff: Average annual network cost movement



Source: AER analysis; SA Power Networks' 2026-27 pricing proposal.

Note: The above analysis assumes electricity usage of 756 kWh in the peak period, 5,034 kWh in the off-peak period, and 4,846 in the shoulder period. This is based on the most recent data for electricity usage and customer numbers reported in SA Power Networks' 2026-27 pricing proposal for the Small Business Time of Use tariff.

Actual bill impacts for individual customers will vary from our estimates as customers may be on different tariffs or consume different amounts of energy from our assumptions. Our analysis is based on flat rate or block tariffs and the main time-of-use tariffs, which have historically been the most common tariffs for residential and small business customers across the NEM. Distributors may apply movements from revenue drivers differently across tariffs which may mean some tariffs increase while others decrease.

We note electricity retailers ultimately determine how these underlying network tariffs are reflected in the retail prices offered to customers. In most instances network charges make up less than half of the retail bill.

Under/over recovered revenues

Although we set the revenues the distributors can recover, the revenue they ultimately receive over an individual year is determined by the amount of actual energy consumed in that year. This is because:

- Actual energy consumption can fluctuate from forecast consumption because of a number of factors such as weather, increased uptake of solar PV, or the rate of electrification (that is, the shift from gas to electricity). These fluctuations in energy consumption result in distributors recovering more or less than the allowable revenue we set.
- Variations can also occur for the transmission costs and jurisdictional scheme amounts a distributor passes through to customers where actual payments differ to what was forecast.

To 'true-up' these variations in revenue, adjustments are made to allowable revenues for the upcoming financial year to ensure that over time, a distributor only recovers the revenue it is allowed.

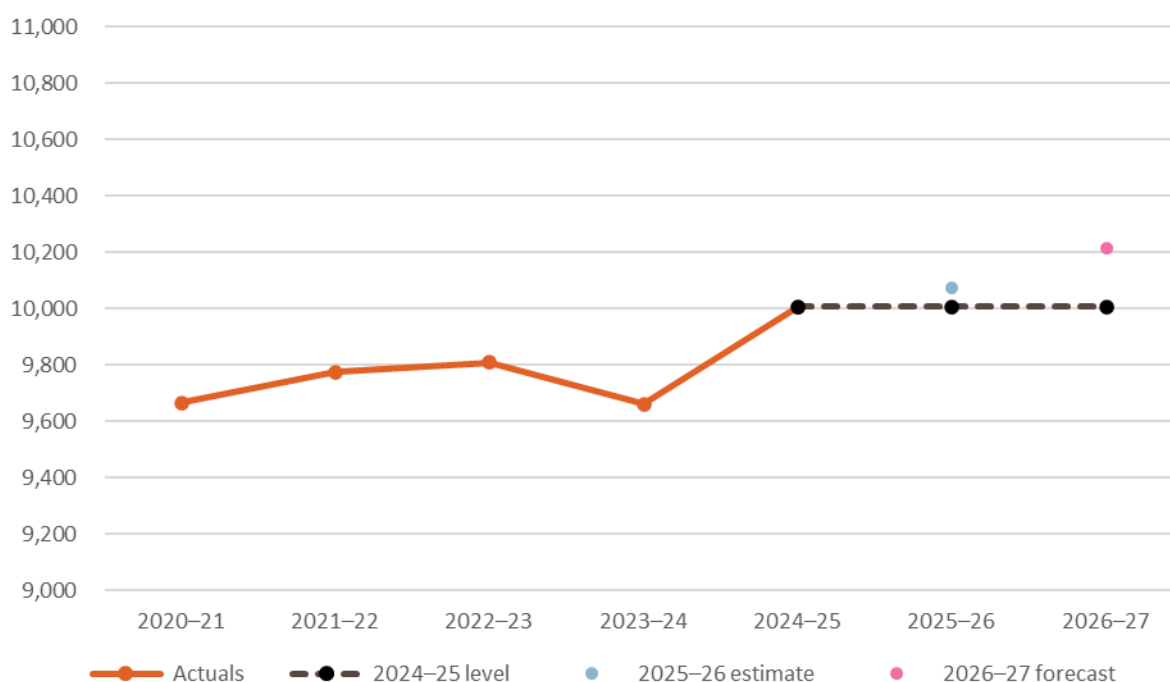
Consumption forecasts

Electricity distributors operate under a revenue cap which sets the annual allowed revenue they can recover to deliver safe and reliable electricity within their networks. Prices are determined based on forecast consumption for that year, allowing distributors to recover their allowed revenue. If distributors forecast lower consumption, then other things being equal, prices are expected to be higher to allow them to recover the revenue allowed.

Our assessment of the distributors’ consumption forecasts includes analysis of historical consumption trends and the reasons put forward for any departure from them. This includes changes in post-pandemic consumption, behaviour due to electrification, increases in distributed energy resources and ongoing data centre rollout across some jurisdictions.

Figure 5 shows that SA Power Networks has forecast an increase in energy consumption for 2026–27, driven by new major customer connections. This is slightly offset by a decrease in residential consumption due to increased uptake of solar and batteries.

Figure 5 Energy volumes (GWh)



Source: AER analysis; RIN and AIO data; SA Power Networks’ 2026–27 pricing proposal.

We consider SA Power Networks’ consumption forecasts are reasonable based on our analysis and the supporting information provided by SA Power Networks.