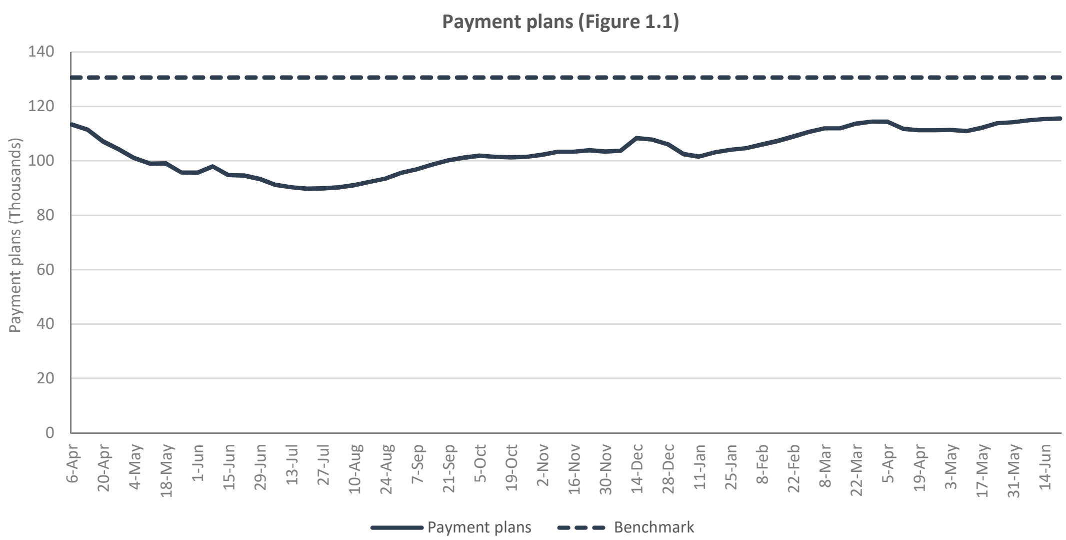
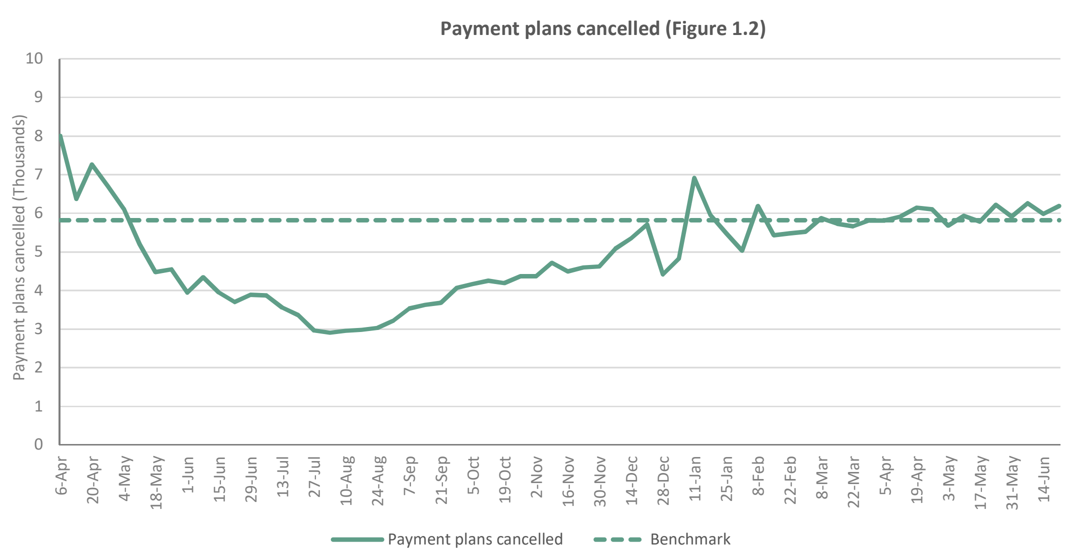
COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

Notes on chart benchmarks

- Chart benchmarks have been included to enable comparison with pre-COVID levels for each indicator.
- Benchmarks are created by averaging quarterly data from Q3 2018-19 to Q2 2019-20, with the exception of benchmarks for 30-90 day debt and for alternative debt arrangements:
  - 30-90 day debt benchmarks are created using Q4 2018-19 data only.
  - Alternative debt arrangements benchmarks are estimated based on data provided by two Tier 1 retailers in the first half of FY 2019-20.

Payment plans





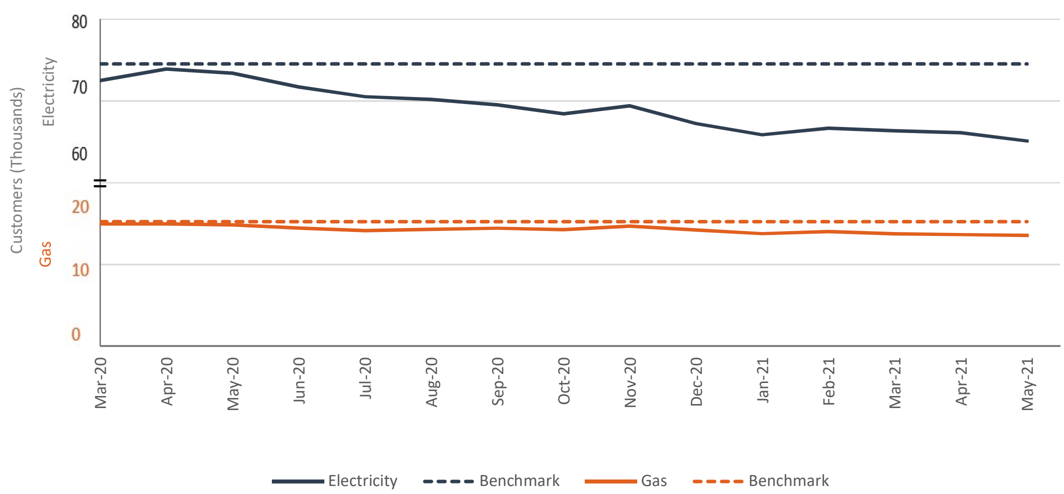
Analysis

- The number of customers on payment plans decreased at the start of the pandemic. However, in August and September 2020, payment plans increased slightly, driven by a Tier 1 retailer closing a deferred debt program that was established in response to the pandemic. Since January 2021, payment plans have been slowly increasing and are now at a similar level as at the start of the pandemic.
- ***Notes***
- *'Payment plan' requires a customer to be paying off an arrears across at least three instalments. This excludes flexible payment arrangements used for convenience or budgeting purposes.*
- *'Cancelled payment plans' are payment plans cancelled by the retailer for customer non-payment.*

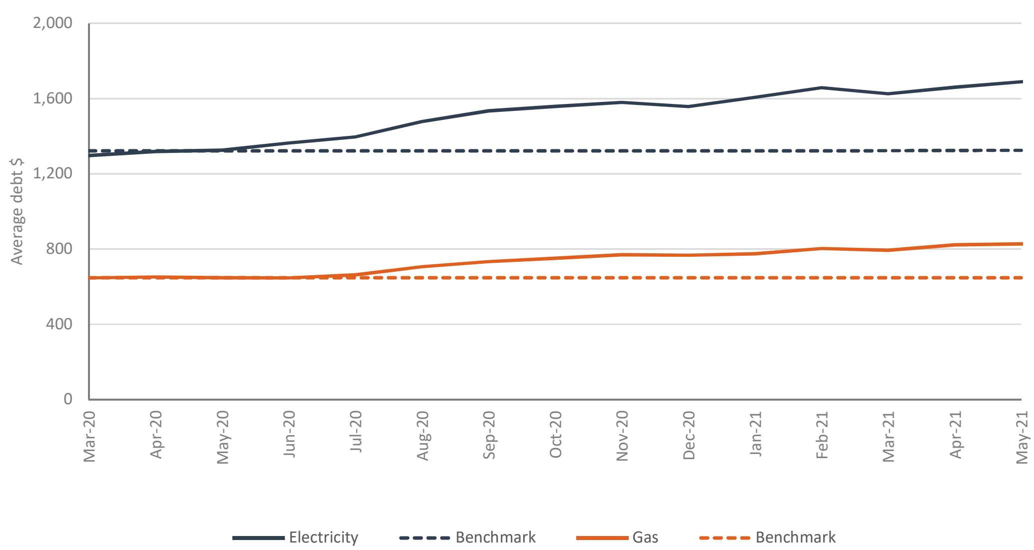
COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

Hardship

Customers on hardship programs (Figure 2.1)



Average hardship debt (Figure 2.2)



Analysis

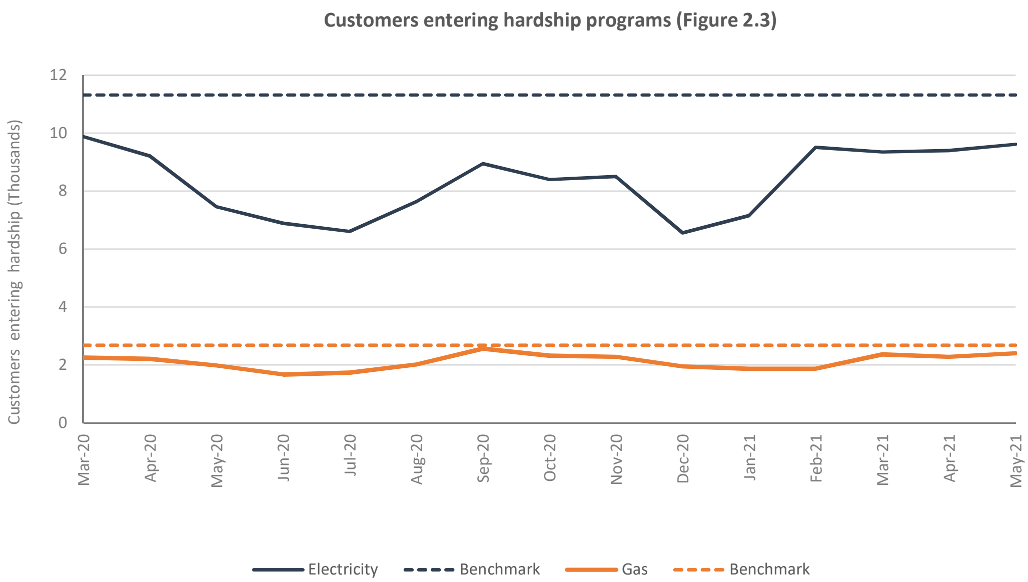
- The number of customers on hardship programs has dropped markedly compared with the benchmark for both electricity and gas. In contrast, the average debt of both electricity and gas hardship electricity customers is now well over 20 per cent higher than the benchmark, implying that the customers who are remaining on hardship programs are accumulating more debt.

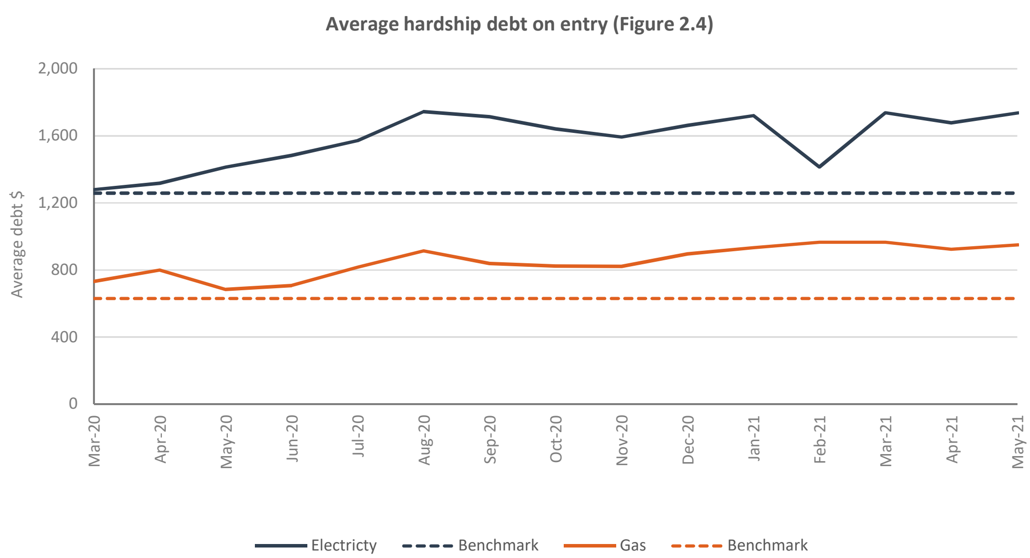
Notes

- *Hardship data is reported on a monthly basis.*

COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

Hardship





Analysis

- The number of customers entering hardship programs has been consistently below the benchmarks. By contrast, the average debt of those customers entering hardship has been consistently above the benchmarks. Taken together, these observations imply that since the start of the pandemic, customers have only been entering hardship programs once they have accumulated larger amounts of debt.

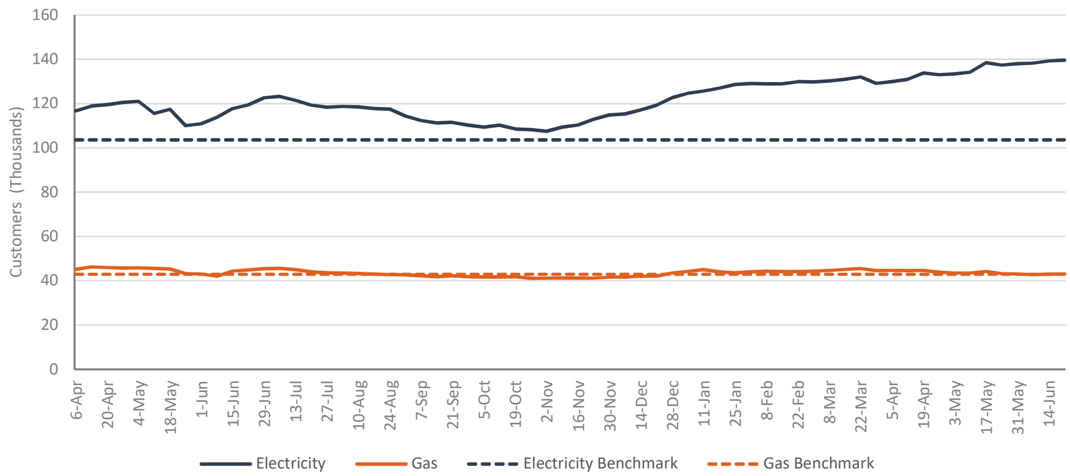
Notes

- *Customers entering hardship programs data is reported on a monthly basis. It is the cumulative amount of customers entering programs each month.*

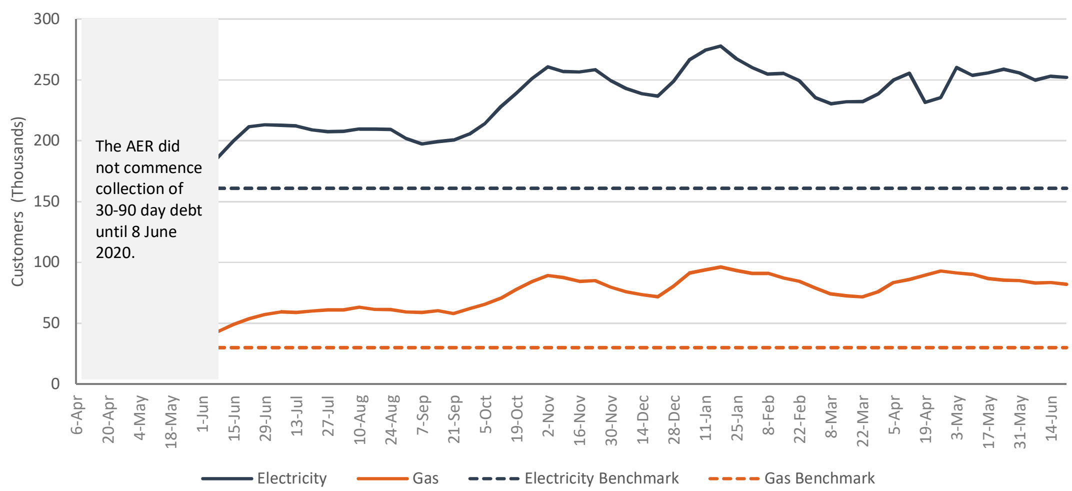
COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

Residential debt

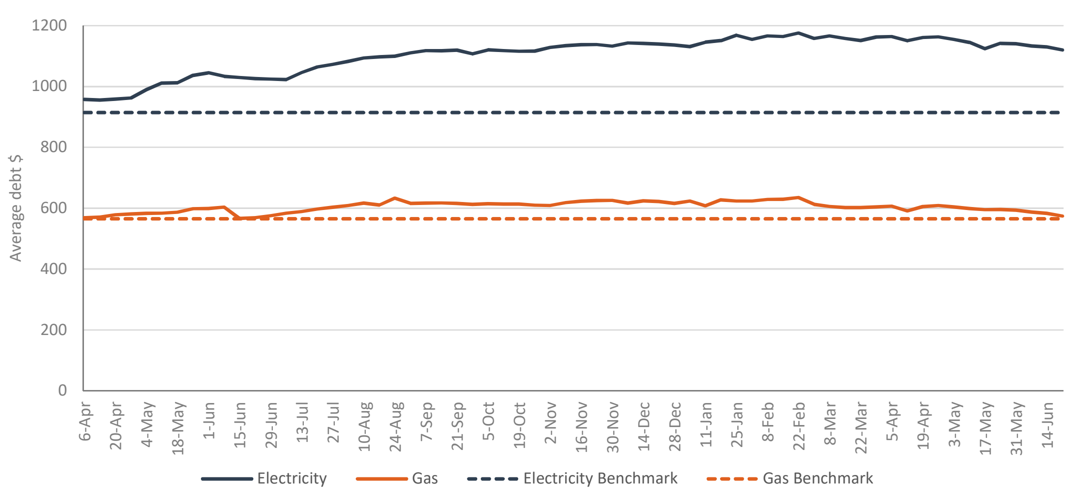
Residential customers repaying 90+ days debt (Figure 3.1)



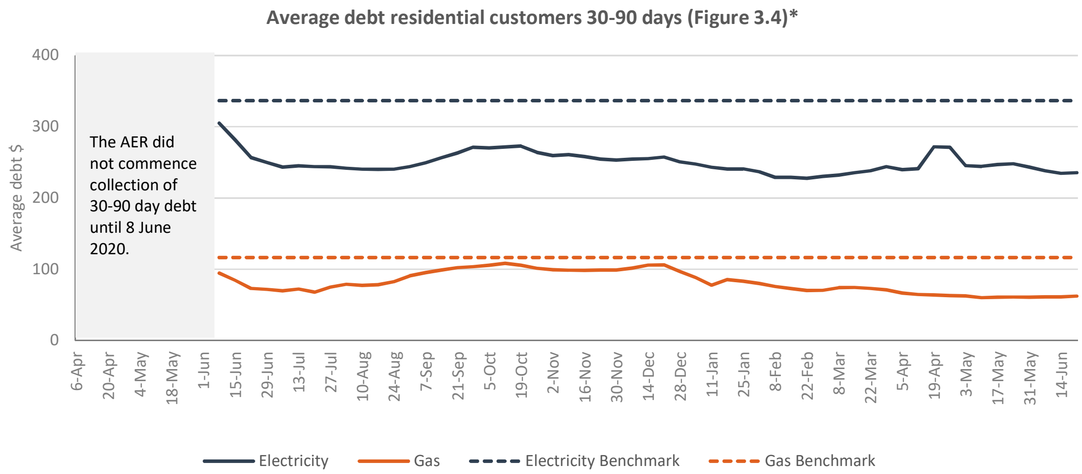
Residential customers repaying debt 30-90 days debt (Figure 3.2)*

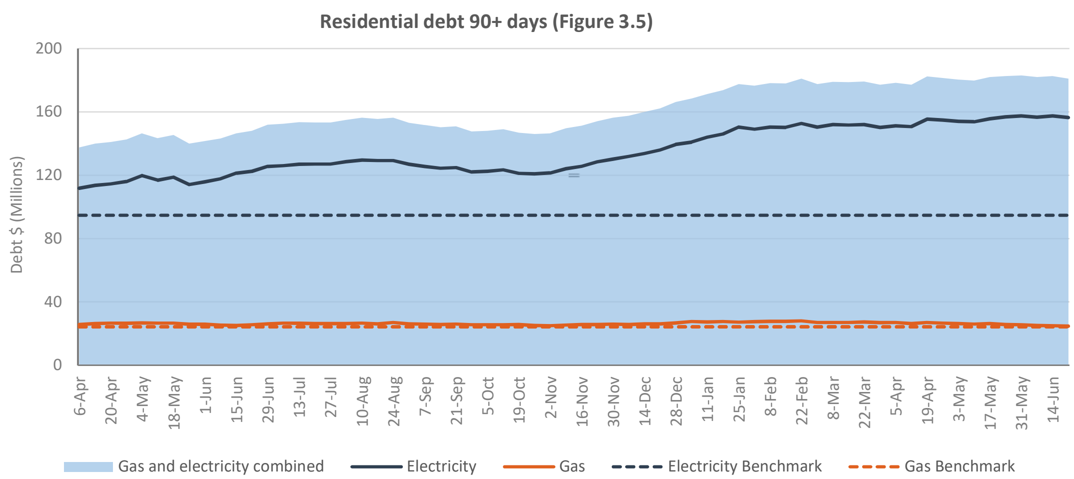


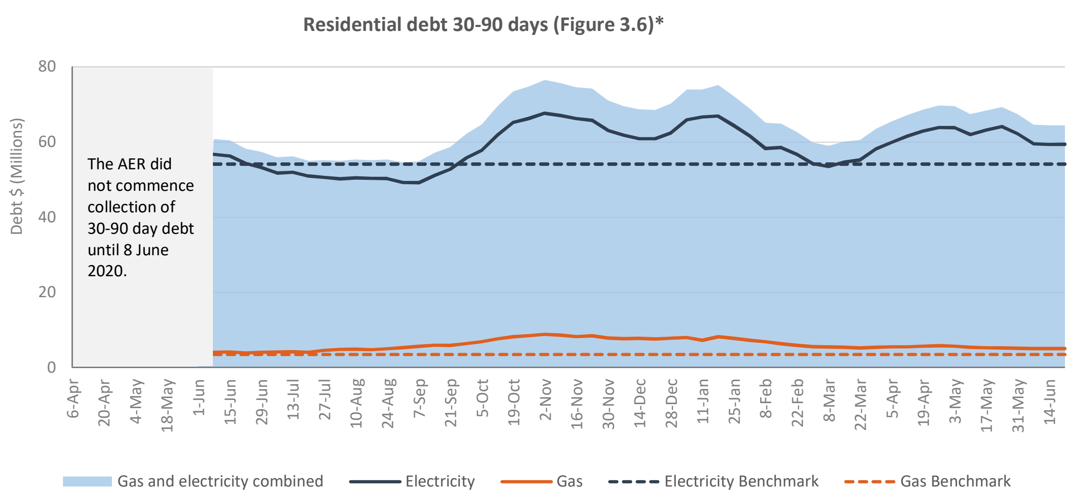
Average debt residential customers 90+ days (Figure 3.3)



COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)







Analysis

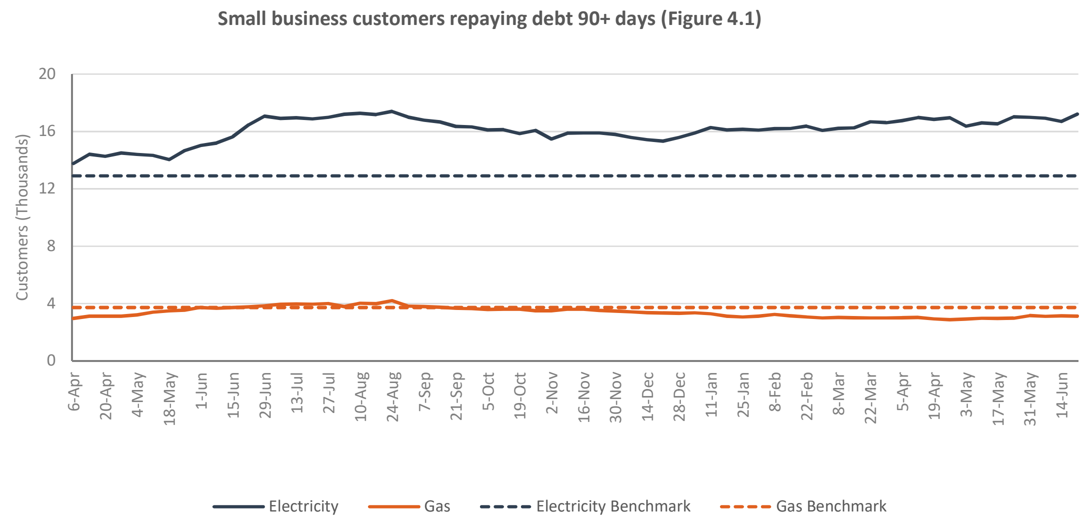
- For 90+ day electricity debt, both the number of customers and the average amount $ has consistently increased and is well above benchmark levels.
- For 30-90 day debt, the number of customers has increased while the average amount $ has decreased. This is influenced by a large increase in customers repaying debt to a Tier 1 retailer that has consistently had low average customer debt.

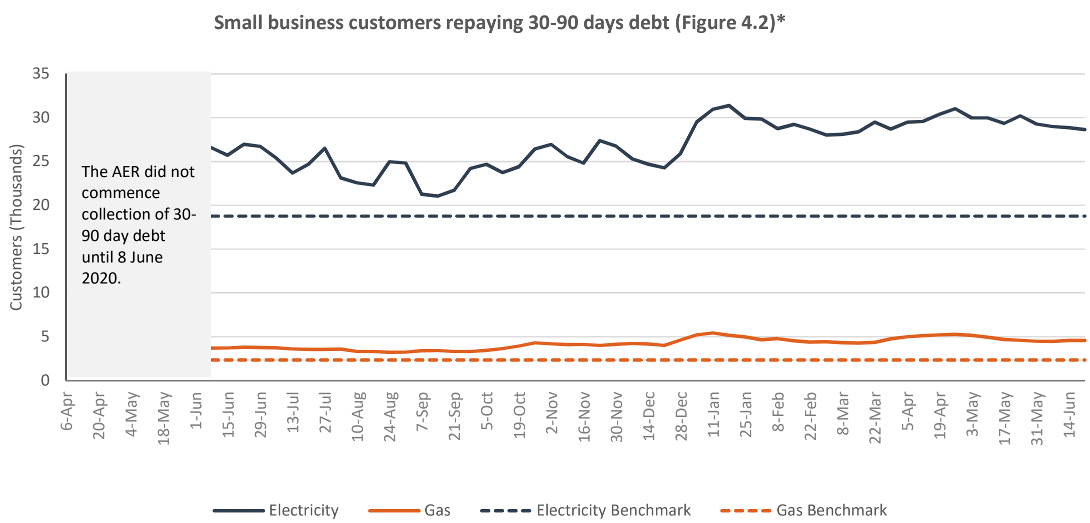
Notes:

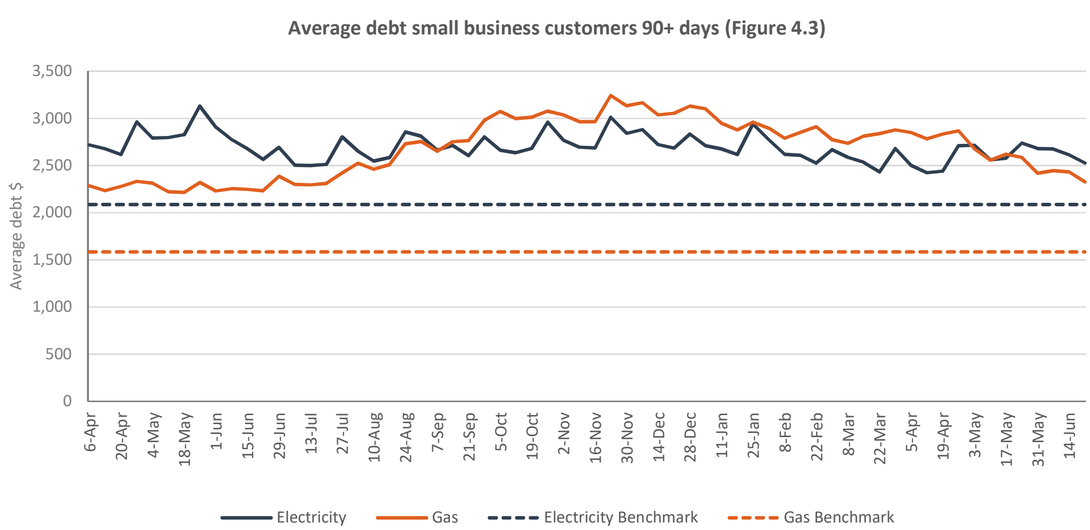
- *'90+ day debt' is debt that is outstanding for 90 days or more, while '30-90 day debt' is debt that is outstanding for 30 to 90 days.*
- *Customers with hardship debt are not included.*
- *The blue shaded area of Figs 3.5 and 3.6 is the sum of electricity and gas debt.*
- **Fewer retailers submit data for 30-90 day debt as compared with 90+ day debt, thus these charts cover a smaller proportion of the market and are less reliable.*

COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

Small business debt

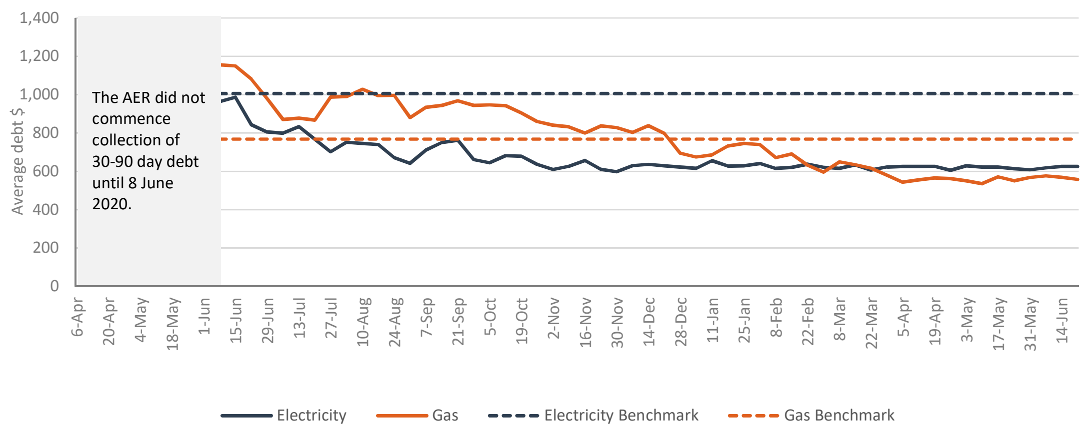




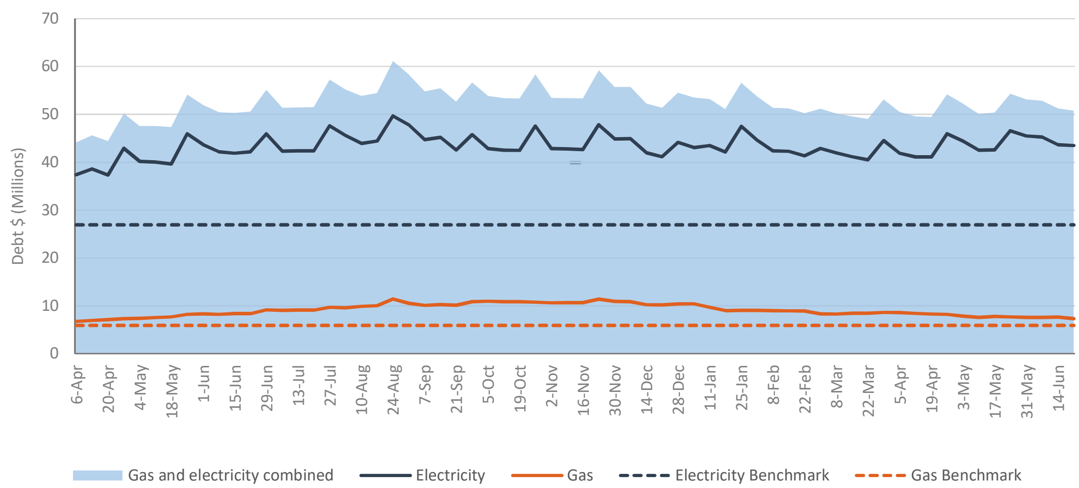


COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

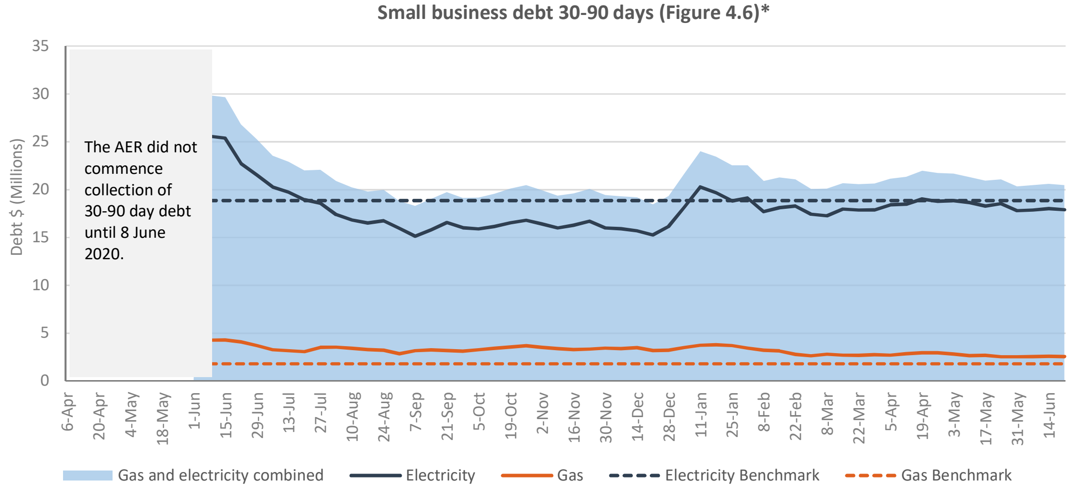
Average debt small business customers 30-90 days (Figure 4.4)*



Small business debt 90+ days (Figure 4.5)



Small business debt 30-90 days (Figure 4.6)*



Analysis

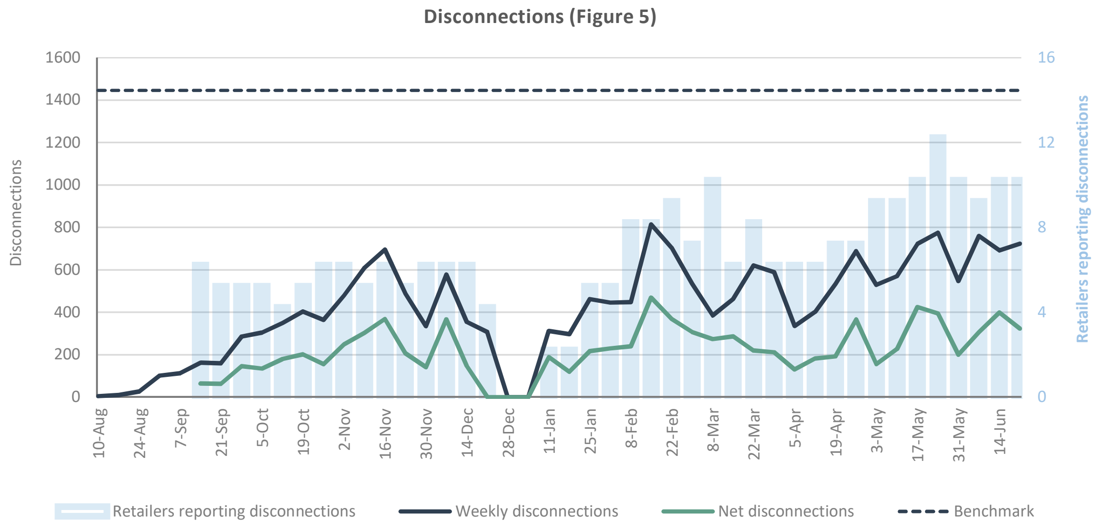
- Average 90+ day electricity & gas small business debt $ has been consistently higher than the benchmarks and follows a cyclical monthly pattern (which may be related to billing administration cycles).

Notes

- *Only a few retailers submit small business gas debt data.*
- *The blue shaded area of Figs 4.5 and 4.6 is the sum of electricity and gas debt.*
- **Fewer retailers submit data for 30-90 day debt as compared with 90+ day debt, thus these charts cover a smaller proportion of the market and are less reliable.*

COVID-19 RETAIL MARKET DATA DASHBOARD (as at 21 June 2021)

Disconnections



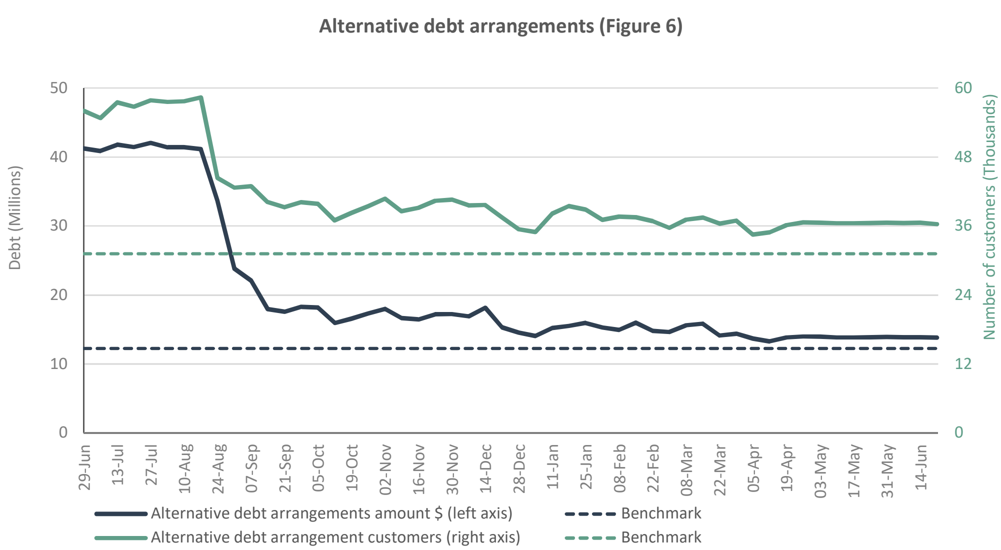
Analysis

- After peaking in mid-February, the number of weekly disconnections decreased till early March and has fluctuated since.
- The number of retailers performing disconnections has increased since the introduction of the AER's statement of expectations.

Notes

- *'Net disconnections' includes all disconnections where the customer has not been reconnected (by the same retailer at the same address) by the end of that reporting week.*
- *Bars show the number of retailers who have reported disconnections for any given week.*

Alternative debt arrangements



Analysis

- The significant drop in alternative debt arrangements during August 2020 was primarily the result of a Tier 1 retailer closing its deferred debt program. There were also a number of smaller retailers who stopped offering alternative debt arrangements from 31 July.
- Current levels of alternative debt arrangements incorporate deferred debt accumulated during the pandemic as well as arrangements available prior to COVID-19 (see benchmarks). Current levels are only about 10% higher than benchmark levels, suggesting that most of the remaining alternative debt arrangements are not a result of COVID-19.

Notes

- *This indicator captures 'alternative debt arrangements' not captured by our usual payment plan, hardship or debt indicators. At the start of the pandemic, many retailers allowed customers to defer bill payments or utilise alternative debt arrangements rather than placing customers on payment plans or hardship programs.*
- *Currently, the vast majority of alternative debt arrangements are reported by two Tier 1 retailers.*