

Small Business Network Tariffs

From 1 July 2020, SA Power Networks has made available more flexible network tariffs to provide Small Business customers with greater choice in managing their energy costs. Small Business customers are those with an annual consumption of less than 160,000kWh.

Background

SA Power Networks is responsible for managing South Australia's electricity distribution network – the 'poles and wires' delivering electricity to approximately 890,000 homes and businesses across SA.

We directly bill our network charges to retailers. The electricity bill you receive from your retailer is made up of several components, including:

- Retailer costs for the management of your account and the purchase of energy from generation sources, and
- Network charges associated with delivering electricity to you via the distribution (SA Power Networks) and transmission (ElectraNet) networks, and the State Government's Feed in Tariff (FIT).

How are your network charges determined?

Your network charges are determined by several factors:

- Electricity consumption,
- Connection voltage,
- Type of meter, eg two rate, single rate or new interval meters,
- Load profile, and
- The structure of the electricity tariff, eg single rate or Time of Use.

The electricity bill from your retailer might not provide a breakdown of the network charges; it may reflect our network tariff structure, or it could be different. This information is provided at the discretion of the retailer in making their offer to you.

We recommend you contact your retailer to determine which network tariff your business is currently on, and to confirm if a more suitable option is available to you.

Small Business Network Tariffs

From 1 July 2020, more tariff options are now available to Small Business customers to choose from.

Example

A customer previously assigned to an SBD – the actual demand tariff over recent years because of an alteration to supply – will now have a choice for 2020/21 of SBD, new TOU, new TOU + Maximum Demand (MD), the old B2R or the old BSR.

Two new tariffs are also now available to Small Business customers.

Those Small Business customers with either single rate or two rate basic meters will continue to use their current network tariffs.

Approximately 80% of small businesses today are on type 6 meters, and so will remain on their current Business Single or Business Two rate tariff.

Definitions

Time of Use Tariff (TOU)

This is an energy-only tariff with charges for power usage during three time periods in the day: shoulder, peak and off peak.

Summer Peak Energy

Energy used during the summer period (November to end of March), with peak time period of 5pm–9pm, seven days a week.

Shoulder Energy

For the summer period (November to end of March), energy used during the shoulder time period of 7am–5pm on workdays.

For the non-summer period (April to end of October), energy used during the shoulder time period of 7am–9pm on workdays.

Off Peak Energy

Energy used outside of the summer peak and shoulder periods.

Time of Use tariff (TOU) with Anytime Demand

This tariff has all the energy characteristics of the TOU energy only tariff, but also has a demand charge.

Demand

The kVA demand (kW times the power factor) that a customer places on the network. These values are often based on half-hour average data and over the last 12 months during any time period.

Business Single rate tariff (BSR)

Energy only tariff with all energy consumed charged at the one rate.

Business Two rate tariff (B2R)

Energy only tariff with two periods for energy consumed charged at the two rates. Peak energy 7am–9pm on workdays (WD) Off Peak energy at all other times.

Small Business Demand tariff (SBD)

This tariff has two demand periods the summer peak 4pm–9pm on workdays and shoulder period mid-day to 4pm every day of the year. The energy consumed is charged at a single rate.

How do I know if I qualify for the Time of Use Network Tariff?

Contact your electricity retailer to identify if you are classified as a Small Business customer (< 160,000kWh per annum) and have demand less than, or equal to, 120kVA.

Our Customer Portal enables you to access consumption demand information for your NMI – visit our website at sapowernetworks.com.au to find out more. Check your electricity bill for ‘Network Charges’ – the Network Time of Use Tariff is often available in this section. Remember, what you pay will depend on the structure of your retailer’s offer.

Why is there a 120kVA qualifying factor on the small business Time of Use Tariff?

For customers with demand greater than 120kVA, an appropriate cost-reflective tariff is the Time of Use Tariff with an Anytime Demand charge set at the highest level of demand in the last year. Very few small businesses require such demand, which is more commonly associated with larger business.

The Time of Use with Maximum Demand provides a transition in tariff simplicity from that typically used by smaller business and larger business. For those small businesses with good load characteristics, they (through their retailer) can also opt-in to this tariff if they choose. Such small businesses typically operate for more hours per year, with some operating all hours of every day.

How do I obtain a power supply increase?

If you require an increase in your power supply as a result of an upgrade you are considering or undertaking, contact the relevant Customer Solutions Manager for your area and request a quotation.

Will installing solar allow me to stay below the 120kVA demand?

Potentially, peak solar output may not coincide with your demand peak. In addition, solar power is considered an intermittent generation source and as such cannot be guaranteed to operate at the time required to reduce the demand (ie cloud cover can reduce the output of the PV system).

How are costs calculated?

The costs applicable for the Small Business Time of Use Tariff has a supply charge and three usage components: a peak summer energy component, a shoulder energy component and an off-peak energy component (please refer to the graphs for further detail).

Energy usage November to end of March (Summer)



Energy usage April to end of October (rest of year)



Above times are all year round for the Business Two rate tariff (B2R).