

Electricity Pricing Reforms – frequently asked questions

Background

The Northern Territory Government continues to subsidise electricity for households and businesses through the electricity uniform tariff community service obligation (CSO). The CSO covers the gap between regulated electricity prices paid by customers and the actual cost of supplying electricity across the Territory.

Electricity supply costs have continued to rise faster than prices over time, and in June 2025 the government announced staged electricity pricing reforms to ensure subsidies remain affordable, sustainable and targeted to customers with the greatest need.

Among these reform Government announced that local government councils would transition to cost reflective tariffs from 1 July 2026. Since that time electricity costs have risen across the Territory, and following further consideration and feedback Government has decided not to transition councils to cost reflective tariffs at this time.

Instead, to support local government councils in managing these impacts, Government has approved a revised approach from 1 July 2026, including:

- The introduction of a regulated local government tariff in the Electricity Pricing Order, applying a 30% uplift to 2025-26 rates for grid connected councils.
- A decision to maintain current tariff indexation of 5.3% for council sites serviced by Indigenous Essential Services.

This will ensure councils continue to benefit from pricing below cost-reflective levels.

As bill impacts will vary depending on location, consumption and retailer arrangements, councils are encouraged to contact their electricity retailer for advice on their specific circumstances.

More information on the reforms can be found here: [Electricity pricing reforms | Department of Treasury and Finance](#)

What is changing for local government councils?

From 1 July 2026, grid connected local government councils that purchase electricity for non-domestic purposes will move to a new customer class called local government customer under the Electricity Pricing Order.

If your electricity retailer is Jacana Energy or Rimfire Energy you will move to the new local government tariff.

This change forms part of the Territory Government's broader electricity pricing reforms aimed at improving the sustainability and targeting of electricity subsidies.

What electricity rates are set for local government councils from 1 July 2026?

The 2026-27 Electricity Pricing Order specifies the following maximum charges for local government customers serviced by Jacana Energy or Rimfire Energy:

Charge type	Maximum amount
Daily supply charge	\$1.2041 per day
Energy charge	45.5150 cents/kWh

Local government council sites serviced by Remote sites serviced by the Power and Water Corporation or Indigenous Essential Services will continue to pay the regulated commercial tariffs:

Charge type	Maximum amount
Daily supply charge	\$0.9753 per day
Energy charge	36.8671 cents/kWh

The Electricity Pricing Order sets the maximum prices that retailers may charge regulated customers. Retailers may charge less than these amounts or may choose to offer discounts.

Councils in Darwin–Katherine, Alice Springs and Tennant Creek should contact electricity retailers to understand available offers and the likely impact on their electricity bills.

What about councils with high-voltage sites?

A high-voltage site is generally a site connected to an electricity network operating at 11,000 volts or more.

For these sites, retailers may charge councils a higher fixed daily supply charge of up to \$143.31 per day

This change reflects the underlying network costs associated with high-voltage connections.

DTF understands there are currently no high voltage sites under the electricity pricing order, and councils are not expected to be impacted by this change.

Our council provides staff housing or residential accommodation. Are these properties affected?

Council-provided housing or accommodation that purchases electricity for domestic use will continue to be eligible for domestic tariffs.

Examples may include:

- staff housing
- employee residences
- community housing managed by councils

Operational council facilities such as offices, workshops, depots, recreation centres and water facilities will generally be treated as local government customer sites.

Councils should confirm the classification of individual sites with their retailer.

Our council operates both grid-connected and Indigenous Essential Services (IES) sites. How will the changes apply?

Councils with both grid-connected and IES sites may have different tariff arrangements depending on the location of each site:

- grid-connected sites serviced by Jacana Energy or Rimfire Energy will be subject to the local government customer tariff from 1 July 2026.
- remote sites serviced by the Power and Water Corporation or IES will continue to receive electricity under the existing remote community electricity arrangements and will continue to be billed at the standard commercial tariff, rather than the local government customer tariff.

As a result, councils with both grid-connected and IES sites will pay different tariffs for their sites depending on location.

How can councils help reduce future electricity costs?

Councils may be able to manage electricity costs by:

- upgrading to LED lighting
- improving building energy efficiency
- replacing older air-conditioning systems
- installing rooftop solar systems
- considering battery storage
- reviewing electricity usage patterns
- exploring retailer offers and alternative tariff options.

Will transitional financial assistance still be available for councils most affected by the reforms?

Government's decision ensures councils continue to benefit from pricing below cost-reflective levels and councils will need to consider cost impacts through normal budgeting, rate-setting and service delivery processes.

Councils are encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with their electricity retailer, as actual bill impacts will vary depending on factors such as site location, electricity consumption, voltage level and retailer pricing arrangements.

Who should councils contact for information about their specific bill impacts?

Councils should contact their electricity retailer directly for information about tariffs, retailer offers and site-specific impacts.

Jacana Energy

Phone: 1800 522 262

Email: customerservice@jacanaenergy.com.au

Rimfire Energy

Phone: 1800 746 347

Email: info@rimfireenergy.com.au

Power and Water Corporation

Phone: 1800 245 092

Email: customerservice@powerwater.com.au

Retailers can provide information on site-specific impacts, available offers, metering arrangements and electricity procurement options.