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Lower gas prices welcome news for households and small business

Lower gas network charges will deliver savings to households and small businesses in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory from 1 July.

The Energy Networks Association (ENA) welcomed reductions in gas network charges for customers with today's release of the Australian Energy Regulator's (AER) final decision on access arrangements for gas distributors in those jurisdictions.

ENA Chief Executive Officer, John Bradley, said the gas network decisions highlighted a bright future for natural gas.

"The reductions in gas network prices for households and small businesses is welcome, given our homes and businesses rely on gas for cost-effective, low emission and convenient hot water heating, space heating and cooking," Mr Bradley said.

The AER's decisions on Australian Gas Networks' and ActewAGL Distribution's access arrangements for the five year period 2016 to 2021 will see gas prices fall from 1 July 2016.

The decisions released today will mean a decrease in the network component of a typical household's gas bill of \$144 in South Australia and \$79 in the ACT.

For small business customers, the decrease in the network component of the typical gas bill will be \$750 in South Australia and \$338 in the ACT.

"This is not only good news for customers – it is good news for the environment given the environmental benefits of gas," Mr Bradley said.

"Natural gas from a distribution network delivers energy that can be less than one-sixth of the carbon intensity of coal-fired electricity.

"The use of natural gas in the home for cooking, hot water and heating can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 75%.

"Natural gas is an economic and environmentally sound choice and an important part of a complementary energy mix for many Australian households and small businesses," Mr Bradley said.

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The Energy Networks Association is the peak national body representing Australia's electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks on economic, technical, environmental and safety regulation, and national energy policy issues. ENA members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia.