



# CONVERSATION GUIDE

## HOW TO TALK ABOUT POWER PRICES AND CLEAN ENERGY

Power bills are front of mind for many Australians. The public and political debate is loud – and often misleading.

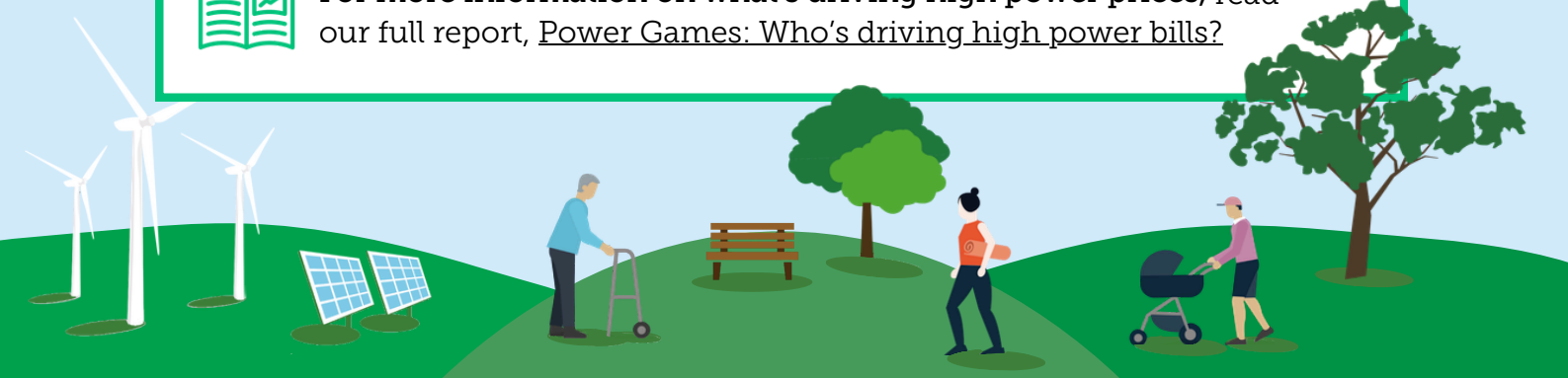
This guide equips you with the facts to confidently explain what's really driving high power prices, and how renewable energy is a key solution.

### THREE THINGS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW:

- 1 Fossil fuels are the main reason electricity prices are so high:** Energy experts say there's a "near perfect correlation" between gas prices and wholesale power prices, and coal outages are driving severe price spikes.  
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- 2 Renewable energy is the only thing pushing prices down:** Renewables backed by storage are the cheapest form of power, lowering wholesale power prices in the grid.  
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- 3 Delaying renewables will cost households more:** Any delay to the shift to renewables costs us. The renewables in our grid lowered average household electricity bills by up to \$417 in 2024, collectively saving households up to \$3.8 billion in just one year.  
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For more information on what's driving high power prices, read our full report, [Power Games: Who's driving high power bills?](#)





## WHAT'S DRIVING PRICES UP? ↑

## COAL AND GAS:

Gas prices have surged.

Domestic gas prices are now four times higher than when east coast exports began in 2015, exposing Australians to volatile global markets.

Gas sets the price.

Gas is expensive, and supplies around 5% of electricity. But it sets the wholesale price up to 90% of the time.

While Aussies struggle, gas corporations are making huge profits.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, gas exporters have made close to \$100 billion in extra revenue while many Australians struggled to keep up with rising power bills.

Coal outages trigger the biggest price spikes.

Australia's ageing coal-fired power stations are reaching their end of life and frequently break down. Unexpected coal outages caused five of the most severe price spikes in recent years.

## CONVERSATION TIP:



Explain how the system isn't working for people:

*I.e. "When the most expensive fuel sets the price, everyone pays the higher price. That's what's happening with gas."*

## WHAT'S DRIVING PRICES DOWN? ↓

## RENEWABLES AND STORAGE:

Renewables are our lowest cost option.

We need to replace ageing coal. CSIRO says solar and wind are the least cost electricity generation mix for Australia.

Clean energy is cheaper than fossil fuels.

Renewable power cost half as much as fossil fuels last year.

Renewable energy and storage are pushing down power prices.

For the last three months of 2025, more than half of the electricity in the grid came from renewables, and wholesale prices nearly halved in the same period.

Renewables are already driving down our bills.

Renewables lowered average bills by up to \$417 in 2024.

Storage can help us get off gas.

Batteries store cheap renewable energy and reduce reliance on expensive gas.

Rooftop solar and storage can reduce bills by up to 90%.

## CONVERSATION TIP:



Most people care about affordable, dependable power, so start there – whether it's your story, how we're saving today, or what the experts say:

*I.e. "CSIRO says renewable energy is our lowest cost option. My own bill has halved since I put solar in."*

