

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
Legislation Committee**

Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment and Energy portfolio**

**Question No:** 183  
**Hearing:** Budget Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 4  
**Program:** Energy Division (ED)  
**Topic:** South Australian Electricity Prices  
**Hansard Page:** 110  
**Question Date:** 23 May 2017  
**Question Type:** Spoken

**Senator Roberts asked:**

Senator ROBERTS: South Australia has the highest energy costs in the country and amongst the highest in the world. Is that correct?

Dr de Brouwer: I do not know about the highest in the world.

Mr O'Toole: In terms of retailed electricity prices for 2016-17, yes, South Australia was around 32c.

Senator ROBERTS: Thirty-two?

Mr O'Toole: Cents per kilowatt hour, which was higher than the other jurisdictions, yes.

Mr Heferen: Just to be clear on that, these numbers we are providing are numbers for the National Electricity Market. They do not include the Northern Territory or Western Australia.

Mr O'Toole: That is correct.

Mr Heferen: Typically, all of the material we have is on the NEM, given the Commonwealth's role in that, and no role in either Western Australia or the Northern Territory. But as far as the NEM goes, Mr O'Toole, we probably ought to take that on notice just to double-check that they are in fact the highest prices in the country.

**Answer:**

In 2016, Australia's household electricity prices ranked 25th most expensive (out of 34) in the OECD on a purchasing power parity index<sup>1</sup>.

The AEMC Residential Electricity Price Trends Report estimates average residential prices by state (see Table 1).

**Table 1 2016-17 average representative residential electricity price (c/kWh, exc. GST)**

QLD	NSW	ACT	VIC	SA	TAS	WA	NT	National average
26.48	22.19	19.57	27.49	32.04	22.46	27.17	26.00	25.80

Source: AEMC Residential Electricity Price Trends Report 2016. 2016-17 prices are based on actual offers collected on 26 July 2016, where available. In all other instances, prices are projections based on expected trends in underlying costs or other assumptions.

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<sup>1</sup> AEMC Residential Electricity Price Trends report 2016; IEA 2017, Energy Prices and Taxes. Purchasing Price Parities (PPPs) are the rates of currency conversion that equalise the purchasing power of different countries by eliminating differences in price levels between countries.