Jemena Gas Networks

Tariff Structures

Small Business Customers

F3

Forum

Outcomes Report

30 November 2023

6.00 – 8.00 pm



Key themes

Overall, the key themes of this consultation with small business customers included:

- Interest in the proposed tariff structures and how they can be slowly amended if needed to respond to market dynamics.
- Asking about a timeframe for the proposed changes.
- Wanting communication of the proposed changes and pricing impacts to different groups.
- The complexity and individual benefits to each group and that there are winners and losers in any scenario.
- The relationship with others in the supply chain, for example, retailers and the other states' tariff structures, including other gas distributors.
- Small Businesses attending this consultation demonstrated support for:
 - **reducing** the number of tariff blocks. Reasons included for simplicity and streamlining.
 - **changing** to a residential/commercial tariff split. Reasons included that it was more equitable and fairer, considering the difference in use and that larger customers currently use more of the gas but pay less as a proportion overall compared with the broad customer base.
 - In terms of tariff structures, the majority of the group supports risk sharing in hybrid option three ("Limited range" sharing + 50/50 split) with equal preference for hybrid option one (50/50 sharing mechanism), followed by hybrid option two. Reasons given include reducing the burden on any one group of customers, ensuring that risk must be looked at closely, and ensuring that the split could be reviewed over the coming five years.
 - Overall, the group expressed high satisfaction with the consultation session and a willingness and desire to come back for further discussions once the Draft 2025 Plan is published.

Methodology: What we did in the session

The aims and objectives of the session were to:

- Refamiliarise the group with the project team
 - Explore the topic area of tariffs and gas pricing, explore immediate questions and consider pricing principles
 - Consider and vote for tariff options and pricing mechanisms that are in the interests of all customers.

Attendees

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Ten (10) small businesses were in attendance. They're all main gas users and the primary decision-makers on energy in their business, ranging across various industries, including

hospitality, retail, manufacturing, medical, accommodation and IT and telecommunications services. These are the same participants who attended our small business Access Arrangement 2025-2030 engagement (all previously attending two sessions each on 18 or 25 October and 1 or 8 November 2023) and were invited back to continue engaging with Jemena on this complex topic. Because of this, the group started with a higher knowledge base; attendees were also sent some <u>pre-reading</u> and paid stipends to complete the task. **Observers:** There were no Australian Energy Regulator or Customer Challenge Panel observers at this session.

Format: The session ran for two hours on Zoom using engagement tools such as Mural and Menti and smaller breakout groups. The complete run sheet is included later in this document.

Overview Summary

Section 1: Reintroductions and burning questions (35min)

This section focused on a welcome back and a reintroduction, and the team held a 'burning questions' Q&A to get any key issues out on the table early.

Section 2: Gas pricing, understanding the concepts and asking questions of Jemena (55mins)

In this section, the team recapped the materials in the pre-reading and shared early thinking on tariff options and the reasons why. Then, Jemena held smaller breakout room discussions with participants to dive more deeply into the topic area. Participants were also asked to consider one piece of advice for Jemena about ensuring their tariff options best meet the long-term interests of customers.

Section 3: Voting feedback and wrap-up (25min)

To conclude the session, participants gave feedback via Menti on the pricing principles, the proposed tariff options, the three different forms of risk sharing, the proposed changes to household and business tariffs, and why they voted the way they did. There was a final check-in with participants, an overall thank you, and an invitation to re-engage when the Draft 2025 Plan is released.

Burning Questions from participants

After reviewing the pre-reading materials, small businesses who participated shared various questions and feedback for Jemena. Jemena answered these in session. The questions and comments covered key themes, including:

- Initial thinking on hybrid options and pricing: One participant asked about how Jemena is going to handle the revenue vs price cap decision. Another asked what the impacts of each hybrid option on smaller customers might be. Another participant asked about the split of benefits within the hybrid options currently, it's proposed as 50/50, and wanted to know if other options are being considered, like 30/70.
- Initial thinking: Some participants were interested in knowing where thinking on tariff direction had come from within Jemena.
- **National picture:** Others were interested in what all the gas distributors do nationally on tariffs, the differences between each and whether there would be alignments in future.
- Comments on the pre-reading included:
 - They said that they liked the analogies used, including the taco restaurant and the share house example.
 - They read with interest all the submissions from the regulator's review, including the comments from retailers and customer advocacy groups and what approach they are leaning towards, the variation in opinions, and an appreciation of the complexity.
 - To what extent would the hybrid mechanism benefit different groups of customers
 - Some submissions appeared to support the hybrid format.
- **Supply chain relationships:** one participant asked about any contentious relationships between Jemena and others in the supply chain.
- **Timelines:** another participant asked about the timelines of the process and if there's an opportunity to change this.

"There didn't seem to be a consensus between all the gas suppliers. I was just wondering, do you guys actually get together with your distributors? There just didn't seem to be a uniform approach there. They just seemed to be every whichway, and how does this get resolved?"

"I just can't see, obviously, everybody being happy. There is going to be some losers in this, and there seems to be so many stakeholders across the board, like even the retailer groups, they're so broad. The customer advocacy groups are so broad as well. I just don't know how anybody's going to be able to balance the boat type scenario, and make everyone happy, and steady in this. It will be very interesting."

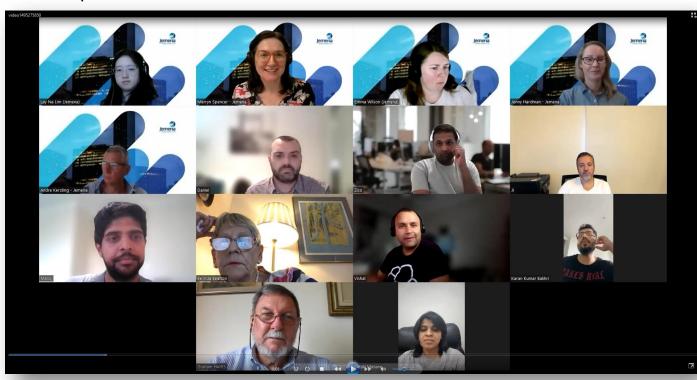
> "How is the atmosphere with the distributors at the moment? Is it hot and testy? (...) Are you arguing or is it placid?"

Gas pricing, understanding the concepts and asking questions of Jemena

The Jemena team provided some early thinking around pricing structures and gas tariffs (see slides 20-30).

The questions and feedback from small business customers covered many topic areas, including:

- Clarifying the hybrid options
- The regulator or government's role in the process
- The reasons for the 50/50 split in the various hybrid scenario options.



"If you can quantify that on a particular bill, and just let people see what the actual dollar impact is."

"Does government play any part in the risk discussion?"

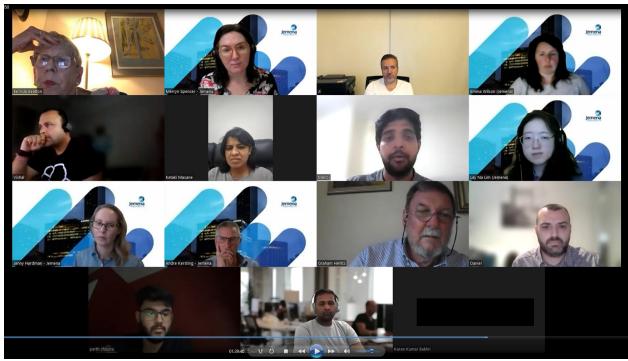
"How are customers going to know just by looking at their bills, that that's the model that's adopted? (...) How is that going to be communicated to customers in an effective way?"

> "In your second option, I can understand that, you got a forecast of 10 tenants there, then the actual is 13, when it has bumped up. Then actual, with the sharing mechanism, you were saying that up to 9-12 so it should be more than. Is it right to have 13 and 7 in the column three? With worse than expected, should the number be 6 or 5?"

Gas pricing, understanding the concepts and asking questions of Jemena (continued)

Some of the themes from small business customers from their deep dive with the Jemena team in breakout sessions included:

- The approach to risk and uncertainty and the ability to dynamically respond.
- Some businesses have options to electrify, others can't.
- Timeframes of when it will come into effect, working with retailers and then with customers.
- Communicating the impact on bills and any changes to the 50/50 split over time.



"As a business user, or a commercial customer, are they only liable to take the risk? So what we come up to because of the revenue cap and the hybrid approach it will be midway? When will it come into action? 1 July 2025. Jemena is going to get the thing sorted by mid-next year and then they'll put their plan accordingly."

"How not to lose our customers how we can better invest in biomethane and hydrogen, looking at multiple different avenues?"

"What happens if the number of customers increase? At the same time what happens if they decrease? (...) If like inflation, how dynamic it is. For example, today you have 10 today 7 tomorrow 6, there is a way to plan for it, is there somewhere we can balance with this group of customers, if you lose more, or is it like a market driven dynamic?"

"In terms of managing losses is there a framework? What is the plan? What's going to happen? (...) Is that going to mean that when pipelines break are they not going to be repaired? (...) is that going to impact the maintenance?"

"We want to know how Jemena was going to deliver to the retailers and how retailers were going to contact the individual customers with this new policy and this new system."

Tariff structures voting

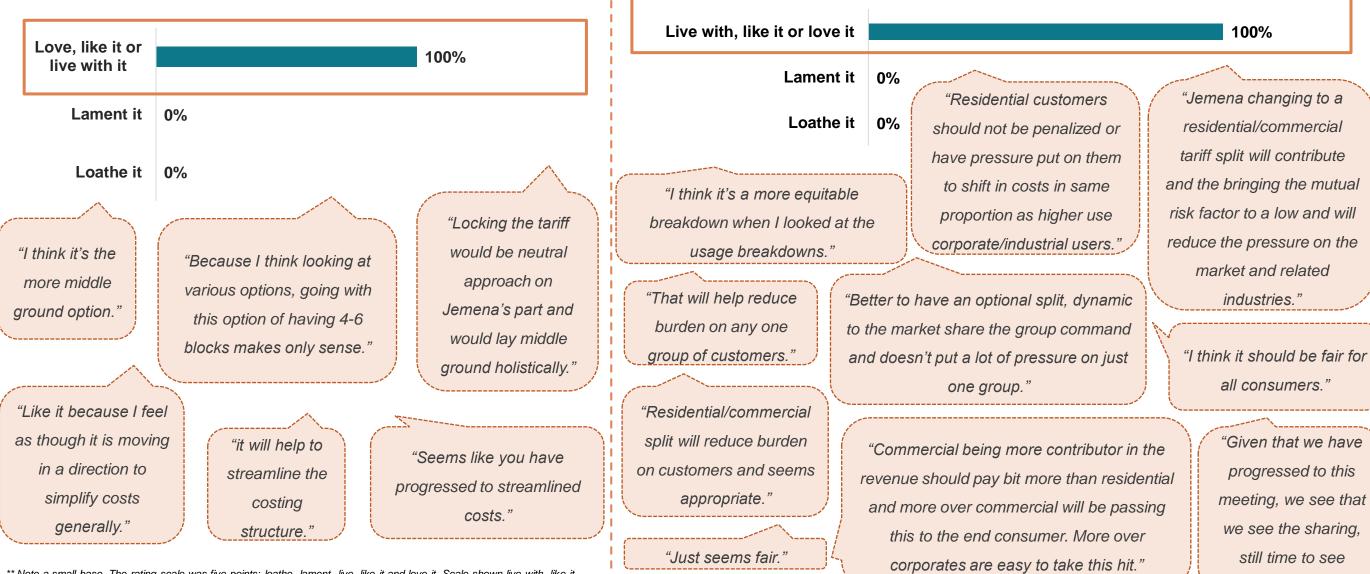
Small business customer participants voted that Jemena should decrease the number of tariff blocks and change to a residential/commercial tariff split. Some of the

reasons are included in the quotes below.

To what extent do you think Jemena should reduce the number of tariff blocks? (6 to 4)

To what extent do you think Jemena should change to a residential / commercial tariff split?

further."

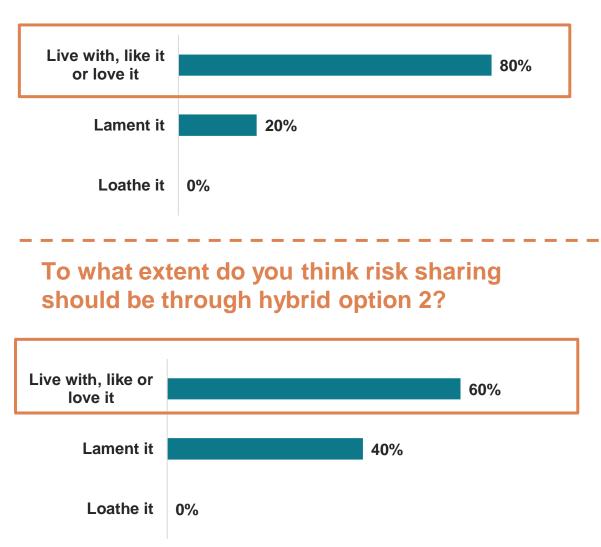


** Note a small base. The rating scale was five points: loathe, lament, live, like it and love it. Scale shown live with, like it and love it.

Tariff structures voting

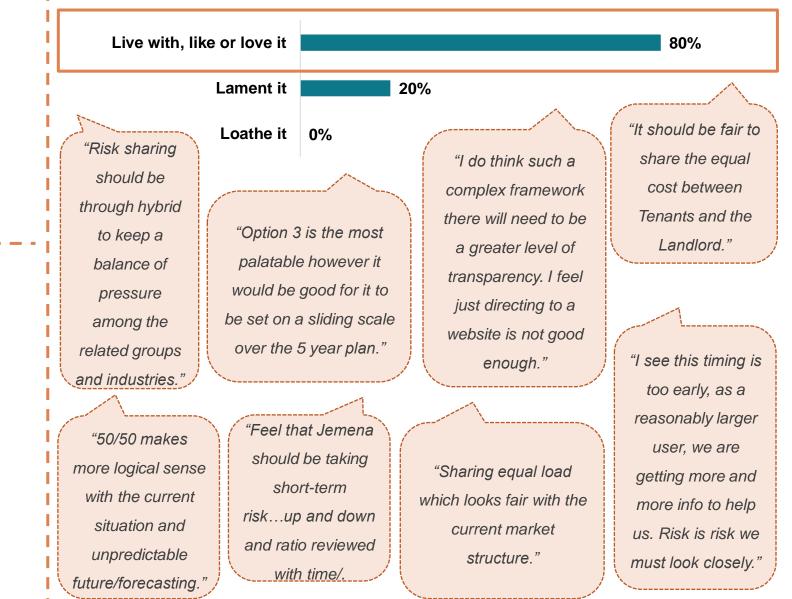
Of the three options presented, hybrid option three was the preferred by small businesses, and the reasons are included. Refer to slide 34 for the complete details of options.

To what extent do you think risk sharing should be through hybrid option 1?



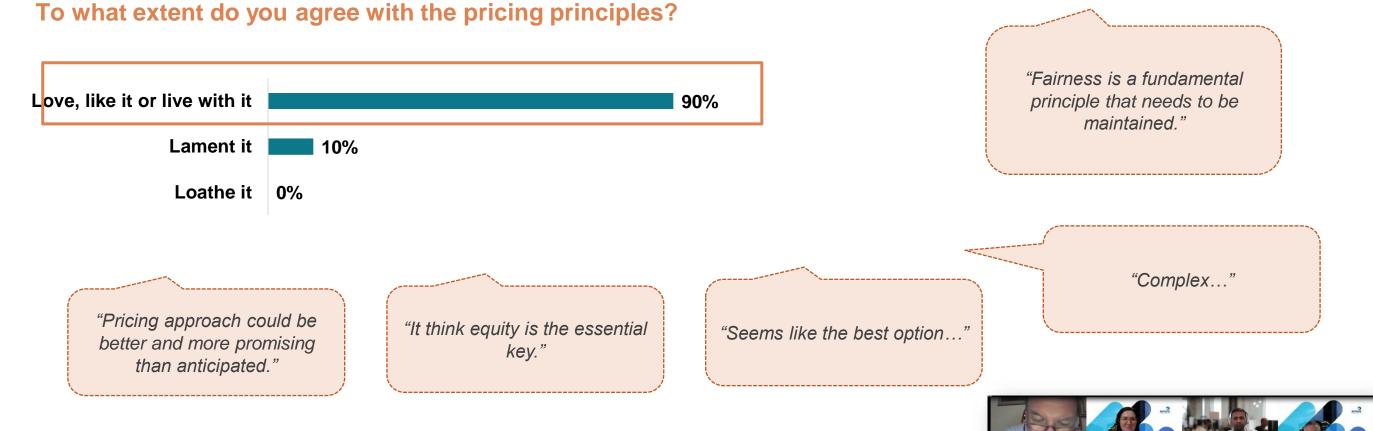
** Note a small base. The rating scale was five points: loathe, lament, live, like it and love it. Scale shown live, like it and love it.

To what extent do you think risk sharing should be through hybrid option 3?



Tariff structures voting

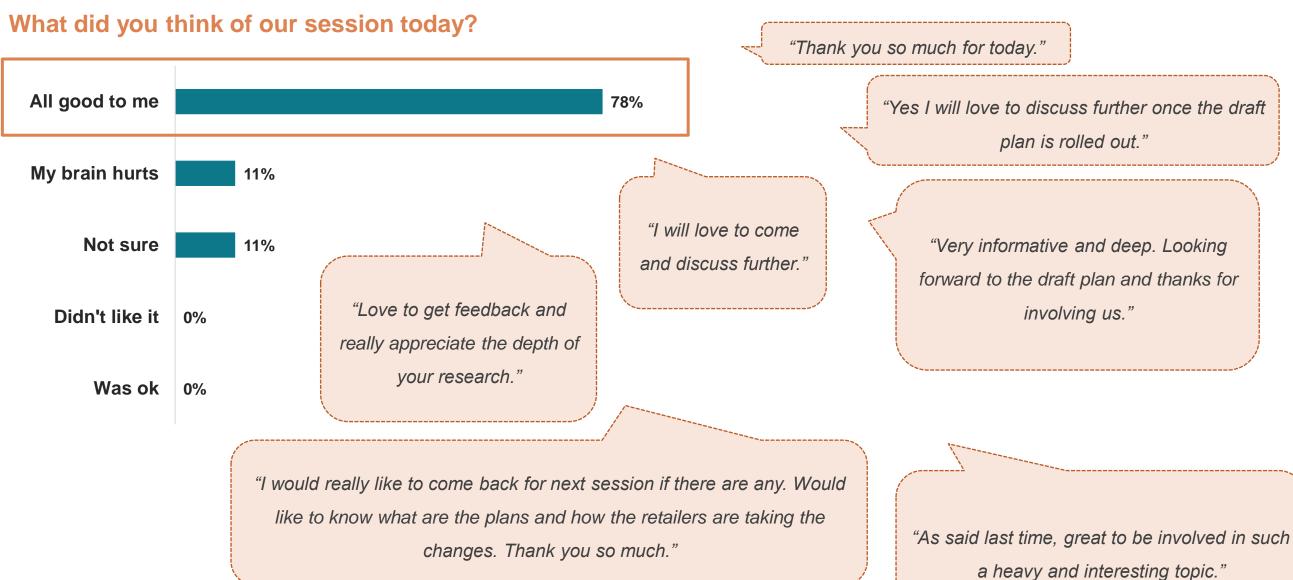
Overall, small business customers generally agreed with the pricing principles, with the reasons why extending to equity and fairness.



** Note a small base. The rating scale was five points: loathe, lament, live, like it and love it. Scale shown live, like it and love it.

Session feedback

Nearly 8 out of 10 small businesses attending expressed satisfaction with the session and expressed interest in returning for a follow-up session.



** Note a small base. The rating scale was five points: loathe, lament, live, like it and love it. Scale shown live, like it and love it.

Session slides

Thursday 30 November 2023





Tariff Structures

Small Business Customers

F3

Focus Group

30 November 2023



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands upon which we operate and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging.

Pictured: artwork by Aboriginal artist Chern'ee Sutton from Mount Isa for our Group's Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan



What to expect in the workshop



Your guides



Andre Kersting Gas Networks Regulation Manager



Lay Na Lim Senior Regulatory Advisor



Emma Wilson Gas Networks Pricing Lead

This session is being recorded!



Jennifer Hardman Communications and Engagement Support Lead



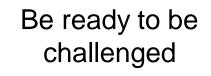
Merryn Spencer Engagement Lead

Ground rules









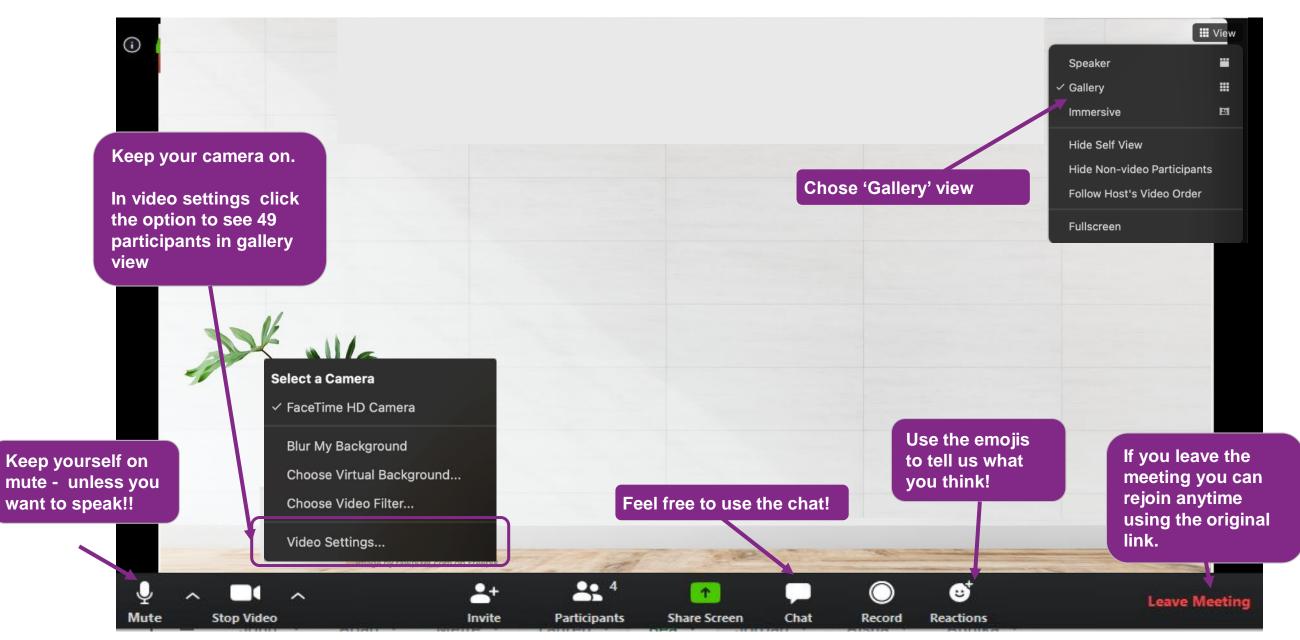
Everyone has their say

Listen, don't interrupt Keep contributions relevant to the subject



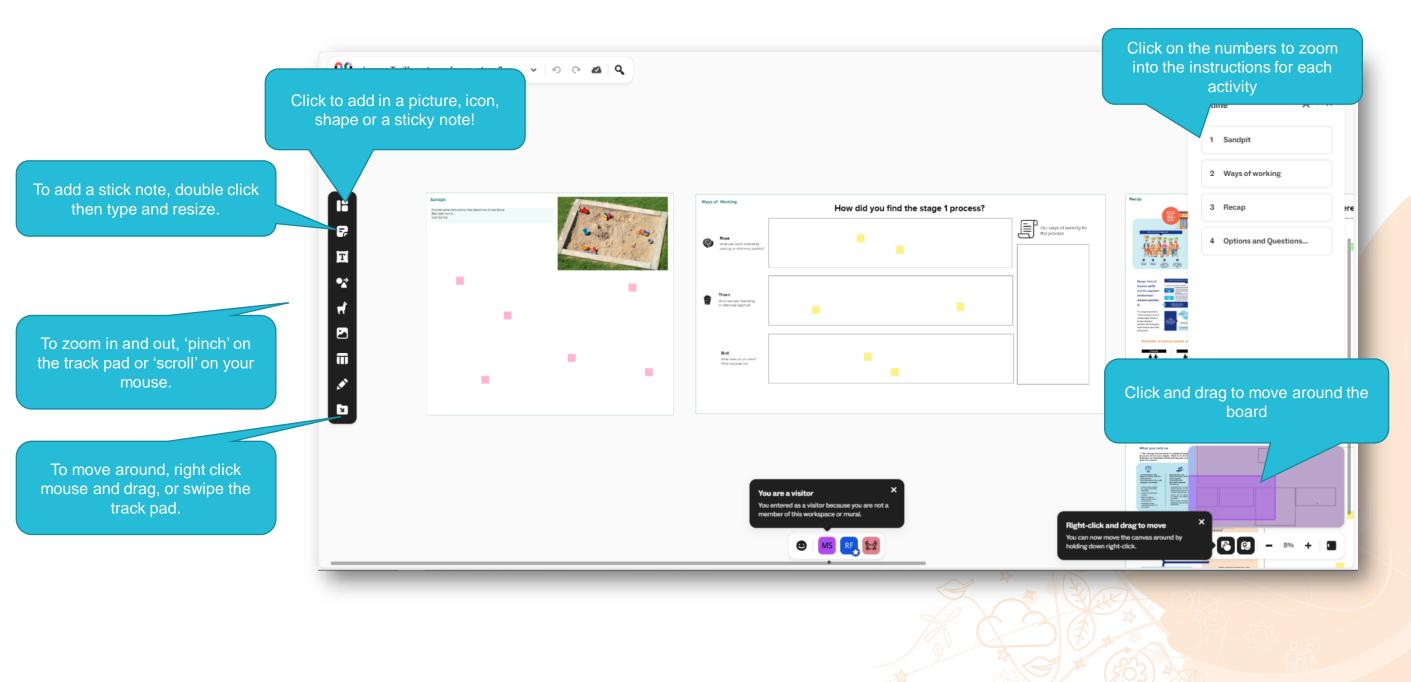
Be respectful

Navigating the Zoom Room



All of you have used zoom before, here's a quick refresher

Guide to using Mural



Re-introduce yourself to the group!

Why did you decide come back?

(in 30 seconds)



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Burning questions for Jemena arising from the pre-reading

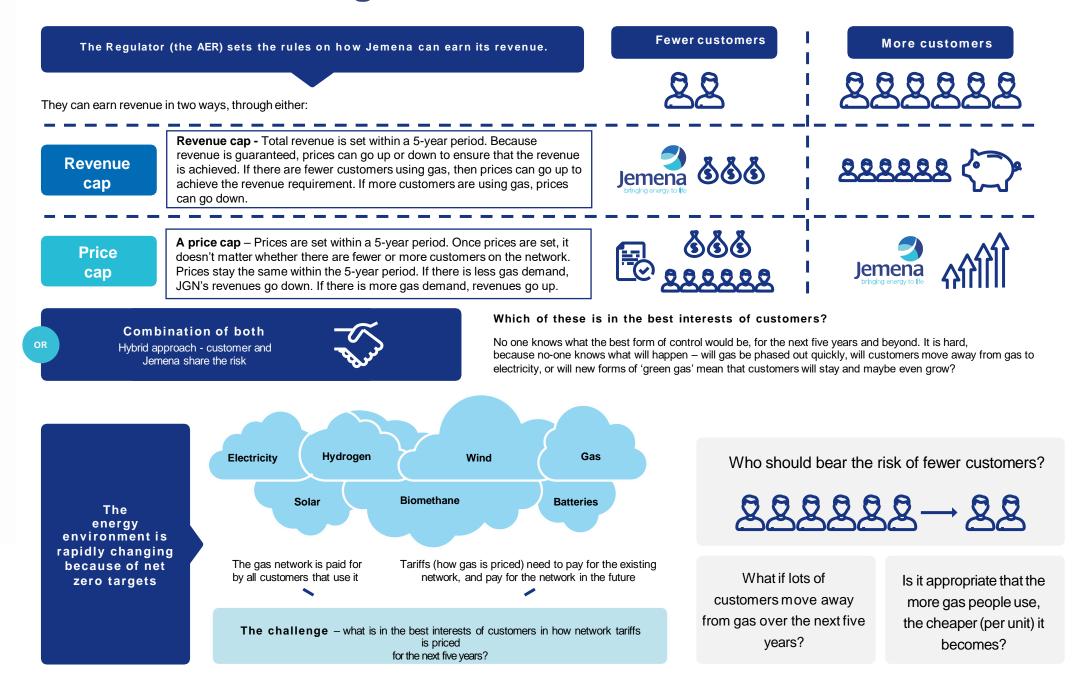
Q&A



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The

Recap: form of control and the regulated environment



Key concept: price vs. revenue cap

Imagine you and 9 other friends (i.e. 10 of you altogether) are seeking a share house to rent.

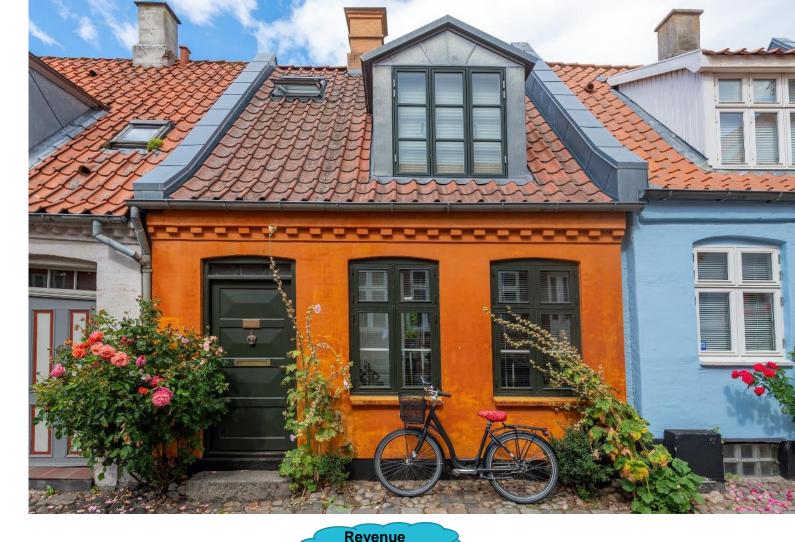
You find a landlord that has a big house, which she can rent to all 10 of you for a good price!

The landlord needs to recoup the costs of maintaining the house, and paying the mortgage. She needs **\$50,000 for the next 5 years** to cover this.

She is happy with collecting the rent from each of you at the end of each year. She just wants to make sure that she has \$50,000 in total, by the end of 5 years.

If all 10 friends stay in the house for the next 5 years, each friend has to pay \$1,000 per year.

 $\frac{50,000}{10}$ friends/5 years = 1,000 per friend per year.



cap

As a **landlord**, how would you protect yourself against tenants leaving? You could state that if tenants start leaving the house, the rent of the remaining tenants would increase. E.g. if 5 friends leave halfway through, then the remaining 5 friends would have to pay double the rent.



Price cap

Let's say you know that 5 of your friends want to move overseas after two years...

With this information, how would you negotiate the terms of the contract?

As a **tenant**, would you write in the contract that the landlord is only allowed to charge each tenant \$1,000 for the next 5 years, regardless of how many people end up staying in the house?

Recap of declining, flat and inclining block tariffs

Declining block tariff



- Most gas networks use this structure right now.
- The more you use the network, the less it costs (unit cost).
- There are two broad categories demand tariffs (Large Industrial consuming >10TJ per annum) and volume tariffs (Residential and small commercial customers).
- Examples given in the paper are from Jemena in NSW and AGN in Murray Valley (Victoria).

Flat tariff

- Less complex, customers pay a steady or flat unit rate.
- Small volume customers pay less.
- Large customers are generally worse off compared to declining block tariffs.

Inclining block tariff



- The more you use gas, the higher the unit cost.
- Best option for smaller volume customers.
- Large customers are still worse off.
- Incentive to use less gas.

Pricing principles



Cost reflectivity: using the relevant laws here to observe cost reflective prices



Price stability: minimising large tariff increases to help customers manage bills in future



Simplicity: understandable, minimising transaction costs and applicability of overseas pricing structures



Revenue adequacy: efficient cost recovery



Fairness / equity: usage cost is according to costs of the network and covering equity considerations like cost of living pressures.

Context

- As you know in May 2023, the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) invited stakeholder feedback on their issues paper
- The AER noted that existing price cap mechanisms and declining block tariff structures, incentivise gas distributors to expand their network and encourage gas consumption. These approaches have been beneficial as they allow gas networks to recover large fixed costs across a more extensive customer base, resulting in lower unit costs for customers.
- We must give consideration to the National Gas Rules that includes pricing for efficiency.
- The review was in response to stakeholder feedback on updates to the National Gas Objective to incorporate an emissions reduction component, as well as broader interest in the transition to net zero.
- The review concluded in October 2023, and the regulator concluded in the report that networks are best placed to do this engagement.

Review of gas distribution network reference tariff variation mechanism and declining block tariffs

Issues paper for stakeholder feedback

May 2023

What residential customers told us

1. The energy environment is rapidly changing because of net zero targets. What is in the best interests of customers when pricing gas over the next five years?

2. Is it appropriate that the more gas people use, the cheaper (unit cost) it becomes?



Jemena bears risk: Approximately half the participants recommended this with reasons including:

- Jemena has the capacity for analysis and business forecasting
- Jemena is a profit-based company
- Risk is too high for customers with cost-ofliving pressures
- Uncertainty of future customer base due to net zero targets.



- Sharing the risk: Approximately half the participants recommended this with reasons including:
 - Uncertainty due to net zero targets including around the potential future customer base, so it's right to share the costs
- Jemena has the capacity for analysis and business forecasting
- Risk is normally accepted by customers in the costs of goods and services.

Some customers believe it is appropriate because:

- Business costs will impact the economy and customers if we change
- We must consider larger household customers
- We are still waiting on government policy
- We need to consider efficiency and affordability for all.

Some customers believe it is inappropriate because:

- We need to consider making it more equal or fair for smaller gas users
- We need to consider the net zero goals and environmental values
- It should be more affordable to encourage connections.

What customers grappled with

As they explored the questions, they grappled with the following:

- Encouraging gas usage customer bills
- Combined risk sharing between Jemena and customers
- Larger customers and their gas usage
- Encouraging gas usage efficiency and environmental considerations
- Cost of living pressures and fairness
- The retailer passing on changes in tariffs.

A group definition from customers

'What's in the best interest of customers?'

Household customers shouldn't be disadvantaged, and gas supply should be reliable and safe – and we should meet and exceed environmental obligations.

Revisiting these decisions with the best interests of customers in mind

Residential customers agreed either Jemena should bear all OR most of the risk (under a hybrid option).



- Jemena was able to better forecast gas usage and customer base
- Customers should take a role in risk sharing as this was seen to help Jemena stay in business and therefore provide a safe, reliable and affordable gas service.

Some customers in our workshops agreed that it was inappropriate to price gas to encourage people to use gas more.

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- The need to balance efficiency and and affordability for household customers
- Small Household customers can be disadvantaged by this pricing method
- Large Household customers and high users can be advantaged with this pricing method.

Early thinking: keeping customers in mind as they transition

What are we proposing	What can we do later?	How does this align with the residential	What residential customers told us
now? Separate out Household customers and Large	Develop a different set of tariffs for Household austamore and Large	customers feedback? <u>Affordability and Equity</u> Larger commercial entities and households have different obility to pay for gas and abound	Fairness is important for smaller gas consumers
Commercial customers.	 customers and Large Commercial customers. Adjust fixed vs. variable pricing 	have different ability to pay for gas and should face different prices.	Affordability needs to be prioritised
Combine price cap and revenue cap ("Combination cap").	Depending on market developments (such as the pace of electrification and renewable gas), we could further adjust the Combination cap.	 Sharing of demand risk With the Combination cap, JGN will absorb loss of revenues (up to a point) if customers depart the network. On the flip side, any unexpected gains due to a surge in customers won't result in windfalls for JGN. 	JGN and customers should share the risk of customers leaving the network
Streamline declining block tariffs.	Depending on consumption patterns, we could further flatten tariffs and/or incline tariffs.	 Pricing for efficiency (as required by the rules) Cost reflective pricing Pricing should avoid bill shock where possible. 	Tariffs should reflect the costs to provide gas services for each customer class

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JGN's customers and how they use gas



Households

- 98% of our customer base
- Use 31% of total gas we deliver
- Include home owners, tenants, vulnerable customers
- · Mixture of standalone and high-density housing



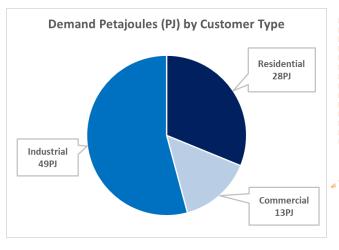
Business

- 2% of our customer base
- Use 69% of total gas we deliver
- Range from small businesses (e.g. restaurants, hairdressers) to large industrial businesses (mining companies, food manufacturers)



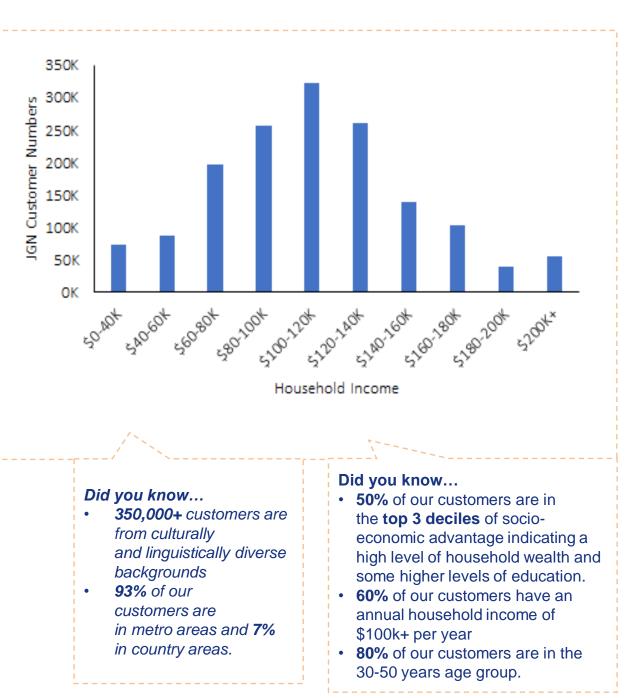
Intermediaries

- · Include property developers, landlords and body corporates
- Landlords make some appliance decisions on behalf of customers (e.g. gas vs electric hot water system)
- Body corporates can fix gas metering arrangements at their site (for example, within a high-rise apartment building, or for an individual business in a shopping centre)



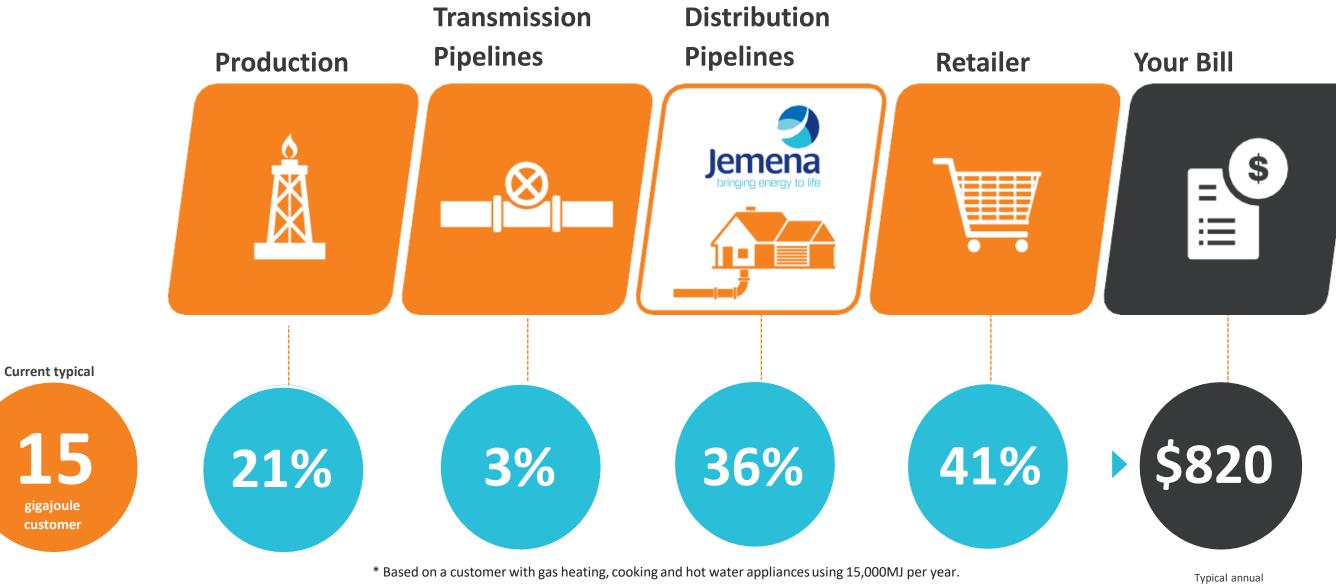
2022-23 demand in NSW was 91 PJ,

- made up of:31% households
- 54% industrial customers
- 15% commercial customers.



Quick reminder: Jemena's proportion of the overall bill

gigajoule customer



Calculated using assumed wholesale price of \$10GJ. Annual bill is for 2023-24 year.

household bill

Why are we doing this?

What's the reason for the proposed changes?

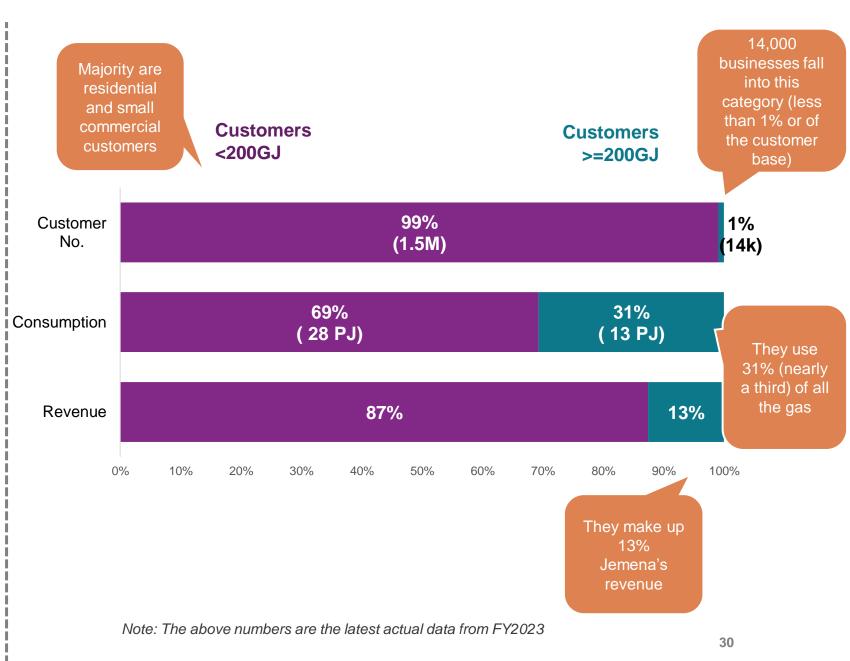
Why 200 Gigajoules?

The 200 Gigajoule cut-off is about how much you use.

Tariffs can't do two things at once

Focusing on affordability, equity and fairness

Minimising the impact on the winners and losers



How will this impact revenue collected over time?



Over time Jemena will **increase** the proportion of revenue collected from higher-use customers by increasing their tariffs

And **decrease** the proportion of revenue collected from lower-use customers by decreasing their tariffs

Proposed new tariff block structure and customer impacts

Who may be impacted by the new structure?

ld	Coastal	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6
	Country	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4	Block 5	Block 6

OI



Large businesses



Residential smaller user (e.g. city apartment dweller, cooktop only)



Residential large family home (regional, many appliances, multiple heaters)

Residential

smaller user

(e.g. city

dweller,

apartment

cooktop only)



Residential smaller user (e.g. small house or townhouse in the city, 1-2 appliances)

Proposed	Less than	Block	Block	Block	Block
	200GJ	1	2	3	4
New	High consumption (over 200GJ)	Block 1	Block 2	Block 3	Block 4



Covers Block 1-4 in old structure



Residential smaller user (e.g. city, small house or townhouse, 1-2 appliances)



Large luxury family home (e.g. with a heated pool in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, or body corporate)

Large

businesses

Revision – price vs. revenue cap

Imagine you and 9 other friends (i.e. 10 of you altogether) are seeking a share house to rent.

You find a landlord that has a big house, which she can rent to all 10 of you for a good price!

The landlord needs to recoup the costs of maintaining the house, and paying the mortgage. She needs **\$50,000 for the next 5 years** to cover this.

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50,000/10 friends/5 years = 1,000 per friend per year.



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cap



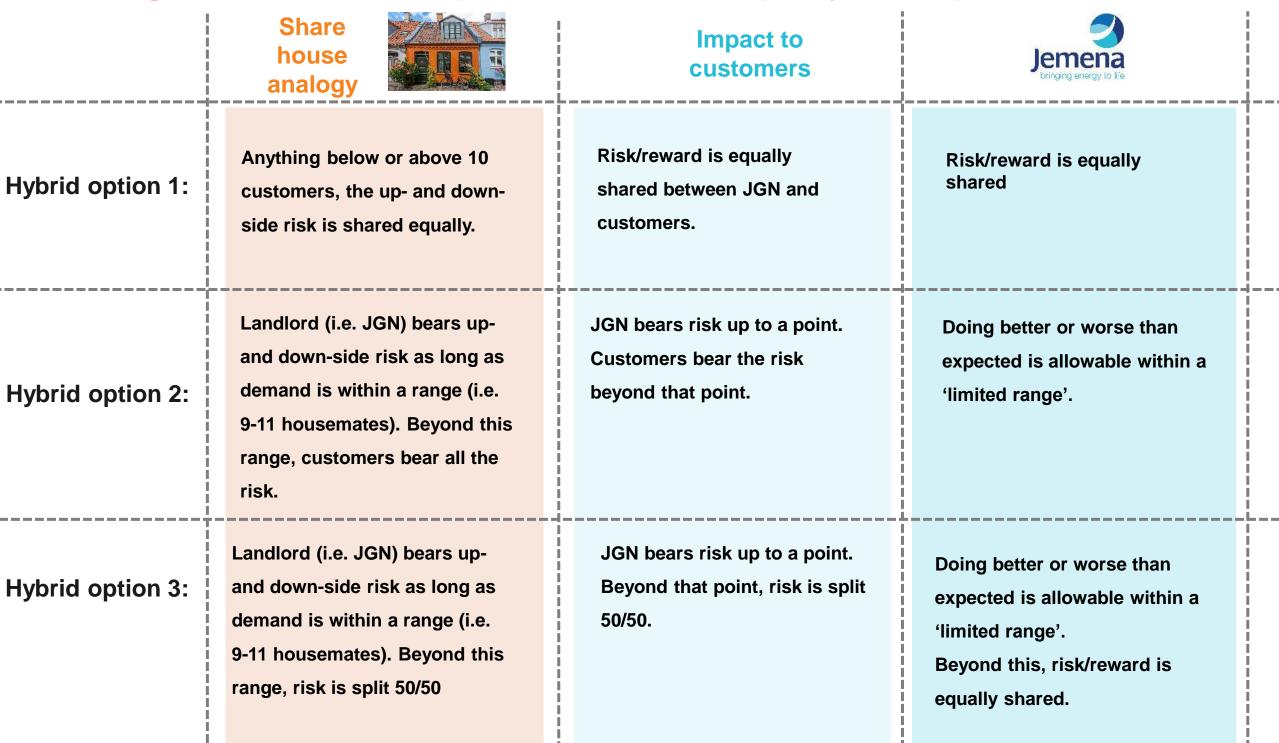
Let's say you know that 5 of your friends want to move overseas after two years...

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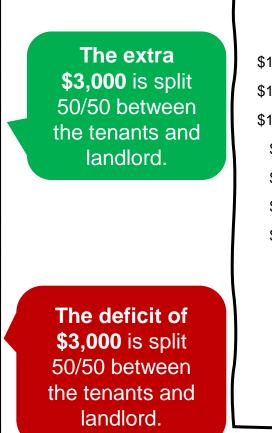
Price cap

Sharing of risk: Price cap and revenue cap: hybrid options

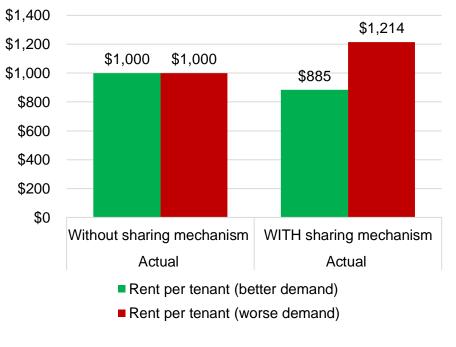


Hybrid Option 1: 50/50 sharing mechanism

		Actual	Actual]
	Forecast	Without sharing mechanism	WITH sharing mechanism	
Better than expected				
No. of tenants	10	13	13	
Total rent (how much the Landlord gets)	\$10,000	\$13,000 Landlord Better off by \$3,000		
Rent per tenant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$885	
Worse than expected				
No. of tenants	10	7	7	
Total rent (how much the Landlord gets)	\$10,000	\$7,000 Landlord Worse off by \$3,000		
Rent per tenant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,214	



How much each tenant pays, without and with a sharing mechanism



Hybrid Option 2: "Limited range" sharing (1 customer)

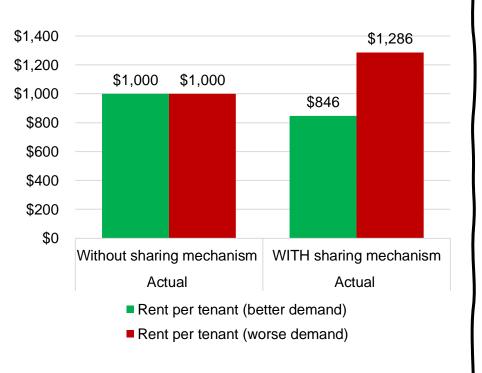
		Actual	Actual
	Forecast	Without sharing mechanism	WITH sharing mechanism
Better than expected			
No. of tenants	10	13	13
Total rent (how much the Landlord gets)	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$11,000
Rent per tenant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$846
Worse than expected			
No. of tenants	10	7	7
Total rent (how much the Landlord gets)	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$9,000
Rent per tenant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,286

The landlord gets upside from 1 tenant only. Tenants get all the benefit from the 2 extra tenants (eg in the range of 9-11 tenants)

> only. Tenants bear downside from 2 less

tenants (eg in the range of 9-11 tenants)

How much each tenant pays, with and with and without a sharing mechanism

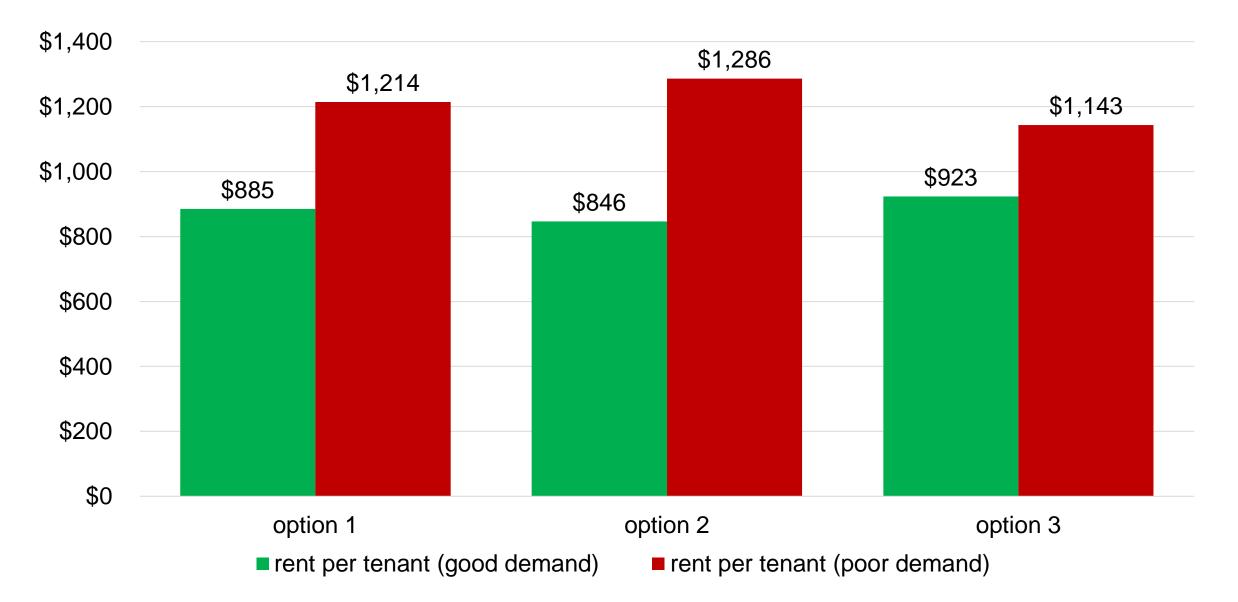


Hybrid Option 3: "Limited range" sharing + 50/50 split

	Forecast	Actual Without sharing mechanism	Actual WITH sharing mechanism	The landlord		ow much each tena ith and without a s	
Better than expected				gets upside from	\$1,200	¢4.000 ¢4.000	\$1,143
No. of tenants	10	13	13	1 tenant. The benefit from the	\$1,000	\$1,000 \$1,000	\$923
Total rent (how much the Landlord gets)	\$10,000	\$13,000	\$12,000	2 extra tenants (eg outside 9-11	\$800 - \$600 -		
Rent per tenant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$923	tenants) is split	\$400		
Worse than expected				50/50	\$200		
No. of tenants	10	7	7		\$0	Without sharing mechanism	WITH sharing mechanis
Total rent (how much the Landlord gets)	\$10,000	\$7,000	\$8,000	The landlord gets downside from 1		Actual Rent per tenant (be Rent per tenant (working) 	
Rent per tenant	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,143	tenant. The deficit is of 2 less (eg outside 9-11			nse demand)

tenants) customers is split 50/50

Comparison of different rents across the options for risk sharing



Activity

- We will break into three groups
- Ask all the questions you want of a Jemena team member
- Also answer the question 'one piece of feedback you'd provide Jemena now about how best to ensure the tariff options meet the long-term needs of customers'.
- Use the mural board to take notes if you would like to.
- This activity is 15 minutes
- Elect someone from the group to report back after this.



\$

Break!

Back in 5 minutes





Voting on Menti

Consider all you've heard tonight.

Time to vote for the responses you think best suits the needs of long-term customers

There will be five (5) questions on a like / love scale!



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Wrap up and conclude



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