

# Changes to gas pipeline charges and quality standards

From 1 October 2026



The Commerce Commission has updated revenue limits for gas pipeline businesses for the next five years to 2031.

**Components of the gas sector, indicating that the Commerce Commission regulates only Gas Transmission Businesses (GTBs) and Gas Distribution Businesses (GDBs).**

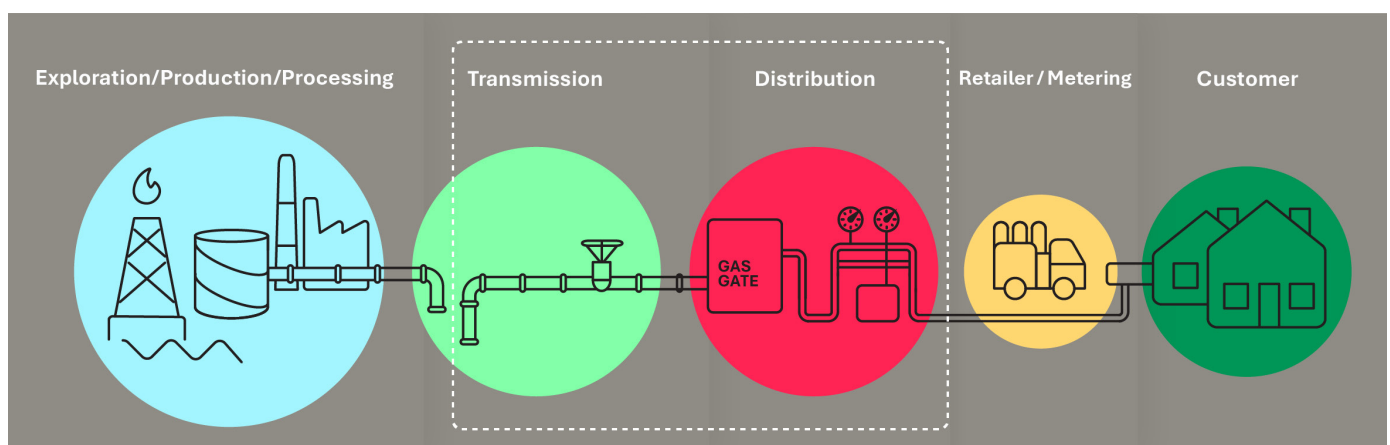
## Gas pipelines are regulated

Gas pipeline businesses are natural monopolies with no real competition and are regulated under Part 4 of the Commerce Act to make sure consumers are protected.

Using price-quality path regulation, the Commission sets the maximum revenue each business can collect and the minimum quality standards they must maintain.

The Commission regulates pipeline charges — not gas supply, wholesale prices, or retail pricing.

Regulation affects the costs of the transmission and distribution parts of the gas supply chain (shown in the illustration below). These components make up around a third of a typical residential gas bill.



## Revenue and prices changes

If you use gas in your home or business, new revenue limits for gas pipeline businesses, will mean moderate price increases for most households from 1 October 2026 to 2031.

For the regulation period, gas pipeline business will be allowed to moderately increase in total pipeline revenues (over the next five years), mainly by bringing forward when some investment costs can be recovered.

We've also factored in expenditure reductions in a number of areas and included a new safeguard to protect consumers if revenues turn out differently than expected.

Gas pipelines have high fixed costs. They need ongoing maintenance to be operated safely regardless of how much gas flows through them.

## Impact on your gas bill

We can't say exactly how much your total bill will change. That's because your bill also depends on your retailer's prices and how much gas you use.

However, we can estimate the average impact of our decision, excluding inflation as:

### Households

- We expect to see moderate increase of around 1–3 percent from 1 October 2026 (excluding inflation) for household gas bills. In Auckland, where pipeline charges have historically been lower, households are expected to see slightly higher increases, phased in over the next three years.
- For an average residential customer (outside of Auckland), the gas bill increase from pipeline charges would be less than \$5 extra per month in the first year. An average residential customer on Vector's Auckland network, would see an increase of less than \$5 extra per month, for each year in the first three years.

### Small businesses

- We will see similar percentage price increases to households, but higher overall costs due to greater usage.

### Larger commercial and industrial users

- These are more exposed to wider energy market conditions, including gas availability and wholesale prices.

Keep in mind - wholesale gas prices and retailer pricing—both unregulated—will also still influence the total amount you pay.

## Know your rights

All natural gas and LPG retailers must follow the **Gas Consumer Care Guidelines** for which include :

- fostering positive relationships with residential consumers,
- supporting residential consumers in accessing and maintaining an affordable and constant gas supply suitable for their needs, and
- helping minimise harm to residential consumers caused by insufficient access to gas or by payment difficulties.

## Get more information

If you have questions about your own gas bill or service, contact your gas retailer, for example Contact, Genesis, Mercury or Nova.



For questions about connecting or disconnecting to your local network, you may also want to contact your local pipeline business, for example Vector, Powerco, Firstgas or GasNet. Its name may be on your gas meter.

For other support, including if you have any disputes, you can contact **Consumer NZ** or **Utilities Disputes Limited**.

## Be gas efficient

Find opportunities to save on your home energy use with efficient technology, and tips to fine tune the way you use your current appliances.

More information is available from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority: <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/for-homes/energy-saving-technology/>

For businesses there is a range of advice : <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/co-funding-and-support/products/support-for-gas-users/>

