



Gas v electricity



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NOW that Tasmania has entered the 21st century with clean, green natural gas, it is time to consider carefully the benefits of natural gas compared with other forms of energy.

For cooking, there's no argument. Ask any chef who has cooked with gas and they will never again want to cook with electricity.

The conversion of restaurants in Tasmania's gas zones to natural gas is now almost complete and now residential customers can enjoy the same advantages of soft heat and full temperature control.

Instantaneous and continuous hot water is also a great benefit of natural gas, which also allows temperature control to ensure a steady temperature for your whole shower, without the need to adjust the taps.

This is particularly good for young children and elderly people to prevent the possibility of burning from water that is too hot.

But the big advantage is the cost.

Not only is the cost of gas cheaper than electricity for hot water (6.57 cents per kWh compared with 11.847 cents per kWh) but you only need to heat the volume of water you need to the temperature you need.

This saves energy, reduces greenhouse gases and best of all saves you money.

Electric storage hot water systems heat the maximum volume of water you need for the coldest day to a temperature higher than you want, then cools it down by mixing it with cold water.

This usually results in wasted hot water, wasted energy and wasted money.

Try this test: leave your electric hot water on next time you are away from your house for three months, then check the bill when you return and see how much money and energy you have wasted.

Log fires are great, but they

cause major wood smoke pollution, particularly in the Tamar Valley.

The next best thing is a gas fire. These units are great to stand in front of, heat your house very quickly and are very efficient to run.

Standard gas tariff is 6.57 cents per kWh compared with the electricity tariff of 19.646 cents per kWh.

Alternatively, you have the choice of gas ducted heating, to heat your whole house, even on the coldest Launceston morning.

And compare the price: gas ducted heating installed from \$4000 for an average house compared with heat pump ducted heating around \$9000.

This difference would pay the average gas bill for five to six years.

For those lucky enough to have access to natural gas, there's no argument. Get gas.