



DECISION 4: RUNNING COSTS

Indicative costs of different types of heaters are provided in figure 9.7. These costs are approximate and are intended for comparative purposes only. Actual running costs vary depending on such factors as the size of the area being heated, the capacity of the heater, and the hours of operation.

The following figures are based on providing heating for a home in southern Victoria built post 1990. Heating for eight hours a day to 21°C is assumed, except where indicated. Adjust the figures for each of the following:

- ▶ for an older home, increase space heating costs by 25% and central heating costs by 45%
- ▶ for an energy smart home, reduce costs by 30%
- ▶ for every 1°C increase in operating temperature, increase costs by 15%; for heating running 24 hours a day, double these costs (except for in-slab heating).

Figures based on:

- ▶ NATHERS THERMAL SIMULATION PROGRAM for a typical new home with R2.5 ceiling insulation and R1.0 wall insulation in Melbourne.
- ▶ 24 hours heating to 18°C for in-slab heating, 8 hours heating to 21°C for all others.
- ▶ Tariffs used—GD 15.0 c/kWh, Y6 5.0 c/kWh, Y8 6.0 c/kWh, natural gas 0.96 c/MJ, LPG 70.0 c/lt, wood \$175/tonne. Supply charges not included.
- ▶ Costs for reverse-cycle air conditioners based on average GD electricity tariff. Selected retailers offer cheaper tariffs to customers using efficient reverse-cycle air conditioning systems.
- ▶ Includes energy costs of fans and pilot lights where used.

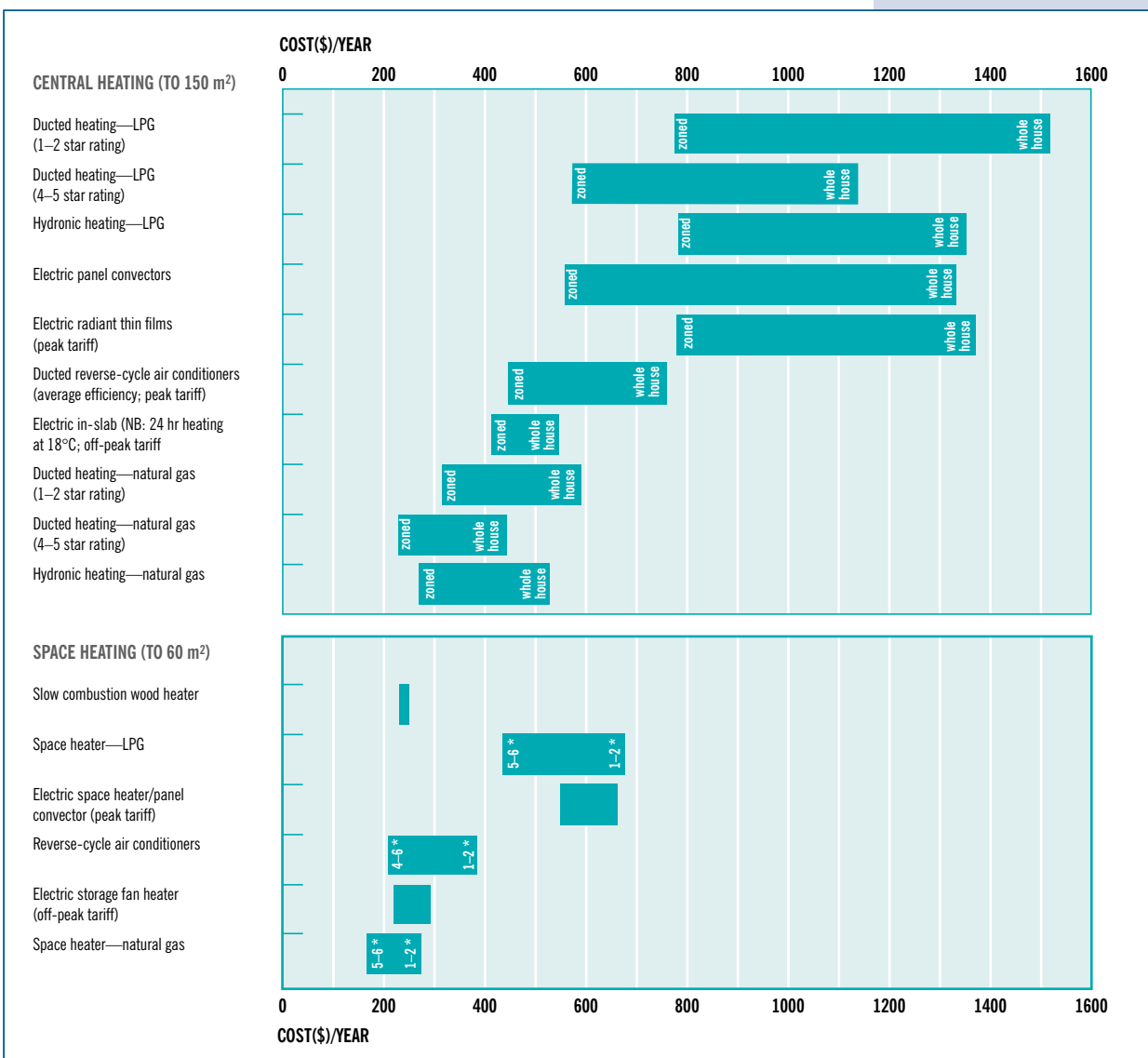


Figure 9.7: Comparative running costs for heating fuels (2002)