



# INFORMATION

## Extension of Time to Publish Model Technical Rules

The Economic Regulation Authority today extended the time to publish model technical rules (standards, procedures and planning criteria governing the construction and operation of an electricity network) for the South West Interconnected System (SWIS) from 1 June 2012 to 1 June 2013.

As Western Power's Network is a large part of the SWIS, the Authority proposes to base the model technical rules for the SWIS on Western Power's technical rules. The Authority was awaiting the finalisation of amendments to Western Power's technical rules before proceeding with the development of model technical rules. The Authority published its Decision to approve revisions to Western Power's technical rules on 10 November 2011 with the technical rules coming into effect on 23 December 2011.

It is anticipated that the development, including allowing for public consultation, of the model technical rules will take some months to complete. As a result, the Authority considers it appropriate to extend the deadline for the development and publication of model technical rules for the SWIS.

### Background

Service providers of non-covered networks that are part of the SWIS are required to have technical rules under section 12.6 of the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004* (Access Code). As an alternative to developing their own technical rules, these non-covered network service providers can adopt model technical rules which the Authority is required to draft, approve, publish and advertise under section 12.61 of the Access Code.

Section 12.63 of the Access Code permits the Authority to extend the deadline for the publication of model technical rules, subject to section 12.64 which requires the Authority to issue a notice with reasons for its decision to extend the deadline.

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