



# PUBLICATION

## Applications for Exemption from certain requirements of the Technical Rules submitted by Western Power

### DECISION

The Economic Regulation Authority has published a decision to approve exemptions for Western Power from compliance with certain requirements of its Technical Rules in relation to the supply of electricity to Karara Mining Ltd (**KML**) and the proposed Mumbida Windfarm. The applications were made under section 12.40 of the *Electricity Networks Access Code 2004* (**Access Code**).

A copy of the [decision](#) is available on the Authority's website.

### BACKGROUND

Technical Rules consist of the standards, procedures and planning criteria governing the construction and operation of an electricity network and are required under the Access Code for all covered networks. Western Power's [Technical Rules](#) are available on the Authority's website.

Western Power submitted two applications for exemptions from its Technical Rules to the Authority on 7 May 2012:

- Mumbida Windfarm:
  - exemption from clause 2.9.4 of the Technical Rules, specifically for protection clearance time for the future Mumbida – Three Springs and Mumbida – Mungarra 132 kV lines under abnormal operating conditions; and
- Karara Mining:
  - in relation to the temporary supply arrangements prior to the Mid West Energy Project (**MWEP**) being completed: exemption from the requirement of clause 2.5.2.2 of the Technical Rules to design the 132 kV sub-network at Eneabba Substation to supply KML to N-1 criterion and instead base the design on a lower criterion of N-0.<sup>1</sup>
  - in relation to the supply once the MWEP is complete: exemption from the requirement of clause 2.5.2.3 of the Technical Rules to design the 330 kV transmission network between Neerabup Terminal and Three Springs Terminal and the 330 kV Three Springs Terminal to supply KML to N-1-1 criterion and instead base the design on a lower criterion of N-0.

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<sup>1</sup> Terminology such as “N-0” and “N-1” is commonly used for describing the level of security of the transmission system. Where loss of a single transmission element (a line, transformer or other essential piece of equipment) could cause a supply interruption to some customers, the level of security of supply is said to be “N” or “N-0”. “N-1” is a higher level of security and describes a network built to a standard such that a network element can be out of service without overloading the remaining elements or resorting to load shedding.

In response, the Authority published an [issues paper](#) and invited comments from interested parties. The public consultation period ran from 30 May 2012 to 14 June 2012. One [public submission](#) was received and has been published on the Authority's [website](#).

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