



MEDIA STATEMENT

ERA Commencing an Inquiry into the Efficiency and Performance of Western Australian Prisons

The Economic Regulation Authority (**ERA**) has been asked by the Treasurer to undertake an independent inquiry on ways to improve the efficiency and performance of the Western Australian prison system.

In particular, the ERA has been asked to design new regulatory arrangements for the prison system that incorporate appropriate performance standards, incentives and performance monitoring processes. A key deliverable of this inquiry will be the development and calculation of a set of benchmarks that can be used to assess the performance of individual prisons in Western Australia. These benchmarks would be designed to apply to both public and private prisons.

ERA Member, Stephen King stated that “in conducting this Inquiry, the ERA will be considering the regulatory arrangements supporting the prison system and the performance frameworks that will ensure that the prison system is functioning well.”

“The prison system is a key part of our justice system. However, the cost of operating the prison system is ultimately borne by Western Australian taxpayers. It is therefore important that the prison system is designed to ensure that funds are used efficiently and are directed to the activities that generate the greatest benefit.”

The ERA will shortly publish an Issues Paper to assist interested parties in understanding the scope and objectives of the Inquiry and to provide guidance on preparing a submission to the Inquiry. The ERA encourages anyone with an interest in the prison system to prepare a submission.

After considering the responses to the Issues Paper, the ERA will publish a Draft Report, which will offer a further opportunity for public consultation.

The Final Report for the Inquiry is due to be delivered to the State Government by 8 October 2015, after which the Government will have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

A copy of the terms of reference is available on the ERA’s [website](#).

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