

8th December 2017

Economic Regulation Authority
PO Box 8469
Perth BC
WA 6849

Kalbarri Development Association
Management Committee
PO Box 6
Kalbarri, WA 6536

Dear ERA,

Submission regarding the Proposed Revisions to the Western Power Network Access Arrangement – Kalbarri Microgrid.

The Kalbarri Development Association Inc. on behalf of its members would like to express its strong support for the investment in the Kalbarri Microgrid. Throughout the consultation process and feasibility study for the Kalbarri Microgrid our members have strongly expressed their need for more reliable power and have welcomed this initiative by Western Power to seek a solution.

Our businesses and community members see a reliable and renewable energy source as outlined in the feasibility study as vital in maintaining and growing our local economy while securing international tourism markets for the State.

The impact of past power outages has been high for businesses and home life as well as raising concerns in regards to safety and communications during events such as bushfires, cyclone and high temperature weather events. We love our elderly and children and have seen them suffer during power outages and as a community have rallied to relieve their discomfort during these times.

However, a bigger impact is the negative experience had by visitors and tourists which can leave a lasting impression resulting in a poor reputation for Kalbarri and loss of repeat customers. This affects our small tourism business operators, café/restaurant owners and supermarkets which are the foundations of our local economy.

We are excited about the Kalbarri Microgrid as we believe it is a feasible and efficient solution and will secure a more reliable power supply essential in peak tourism season. We also believe it will build confidence in future investors and business operators to choose Kalbarri as a place to bring excellent tourism experiences and services.

Having a microgrid can add to our marketing of Kalbarri as an eco-nature based destination and provide the opportunity for the State to learn how micro grids can support communities where unreliable power is an issue.

We commend Western Power staff involved in the feasibility study and consultation as they were really at the front line of hearing community and business concerns and responding in an open, professional and rigorously considered dialogue.

The Kalbarri Development Association Inc would like to see Western Power being allowed to investigate microgrids, and other non-traditional 'poles and wires' network solutions, and urge the ERA to support invest in them where prudent to do so.

Kind Regards,

Merilynn Eastland
President Kalbarri Development Association Inc