



Steve Edwell
Chair – Economic Regulation Authority
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via <mailto:steve.edwell@erawa.com.au>

Dear Mr Edwell

Western Power Access Arrangement 5 - ‘Supporting the government’s decarbonisation plans’

Energy Policy WA has been working closely with Western Power in relation to the network requirements to support the Government’s decision to retire state-owned coal-fired generation facilities, and replace these with new wind generation and storage capacity, over the period to 2030.

The proposed transmission investment for the Access Arrangement 5 period (upgrade the 220kV transmission line to the Eastern Goldfields and to undertake scoping and planning of potential network augmentations for the North Region of the network) is consistent with work that was undertaken to support this decision, and Energy Policy WA supports the ERA granting a waiver for Western Power to undertake a Regulatory Investment Test for this work due to the reasons outlined by Western Power.

Western Power has also been an integral member of the Treasury-led Taskforce overseeing the SWIS Demand Assessment, with the Taskforce’s formal advice due to be provided to Government shortly. It is likely that further network investment will be required following government consideration of this advice. Energy Policy WA will consult with the ERA on this as soon as is practicable and/or appropriate to do so.

Please feel free to contact

if you have any queries or would like further information.

Yours sincerely

Jai Thomas
COORDINATOR OF ENERGY

18 January 2023