

NOTICE

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED COMMUNICATION RULES UNDER THE ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY METERING CODE 2005

On 16 February 2006, the Economic Regulation Authority approved communication rules submitted by Western Power Corporation under Part 6 of the *Electricity Metering Code 2005*.

The communication rules establish the methods, protocols and framework for exchanging metering information and data between the network operator and a Metering Code participant (such as a retailer). They must be compatible with "communication rules" approved for the network on 16 December 2005 under the *Electricity Industry Customer Transfer Code 2004*.

The Authority advised on 9 January 2006 that Western Power had submitted for approval a proposed model service level agreement and communications rules, as required under Part 6 of the *Electricity Industry Metering Code 2005*.

The Authority is satisfied that Western Power has undertaken a consultation process in developing the communication rules, as required by the Metering Code, and has taken into account the views of Metering Code participants. The Authority also took note of the submissions of interested parties in giving its approval.

The Authority is satisfied that the proposed communication rules comply with clauses 6.5 and 6.7 of the Metering Code, as they:

- comply with the Metering Code;
- do not impose inappropriate barriers to entry to a market;
- are consistent with good electricity industry practice;
- are reasonable;
- are consistent with the Code objectives;
- are consistent with the market rules; and
- are consistent with other enactments, to the extent that they are relevant.

The Authority notes that their format is similar to the communication rules approved by the Authority under the *Electricity Industry Customer Transfer Code 2004*.

The approved communication rules are a 'high level' document. Detailed information will be specified in the Build Pack document, which will include the details of how the data and information exchange will take place. It will also include information relating to the design and development of information systems to enable communication processes to occur.

Documents in the Build Pack are to be developed in consultation with Metering Code participants and must be published within 60 business days of this approval.

The approved communication rules are available from the Authority's website at: www.era.wa.gov.au/electricity/meteringCode.cfm

For further information contact:

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