

NOTICE

WESTERN POWER CORPORATION NETWORKS BUSINESS UNIT CUSTOMER TRANSFER CODE COMMUNICATION RULES

The Economic Regulation Authority (Authority) advises that Western Power Corporation Networks Business Unit (Western Power) has submitted amended proposed communication rules to the Authority for approval. This is pursuant to Part 5 of the *Electricity Industry Customer Transfer Code 2004* (Customer Transfer Code) and the requirement to resubmit amended proposed communication rules by 30 September 2005.

Communication rules detail how transactions relating to the transfer of contestable customers are to be executed between the networks business of Western Power and retailers of electricity. These rules govern the format and protocols for exchanging information and data.

The amended proposed communication rules are available on the Authority's website <http://www.era.wa.gov.au/electricity/CustomerTransferCode.cfm>, along with the accompanying report submitted by Western Power regarding the consultative processes adopted during the development of the proposed communication rules. Printed copies of the documentation are available directly from the Authority for \$10.00 per set.

The Authority will assess Western Power's amended proposed communication rules and accompanying report in accordance with the criteria set out in clause 5.1 of the Customer Transfer Code to ensure the communication rules are reasonable and are consistent with the Customer Transfer Code.

To assist the assessment process, the Authority invites submissions from interested parties regarding the amended proposed communication rules and accompanying report. As communication rules deal with detailed communication protocols between retailers of electricity and the operator of the networks business, the Authority anticipates these issues would be of most relevance to current and prospective electricity retailing businesses.

Submissions should be in both printed and electronic form and should be directed to:

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Economic Regulation Authority
Level 6, Governor Stirling Tower
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Telephone: (08) 9213 1916
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Email: electricity.networks@era.wa.gov.au

Submissions should be received by **4:00pm WST, Thursday 27 October 2005**.

It is noted that the amended proposed communication rules refer to a subsidiary "Build Pack" which will contain detailed processes and functional specifications to enable efficient use of Western Power's web portal and assist retailers in the design and development of information systems to support the customer transfer protocol. The amended proposed communication rules indicate the "Build Pack" will be developed by Western Power in consultation with retailers, published following approval of the communication rules, and subject to the dispute resolution procedures detailed in the amended proposed communication rules.

A further notice will be issued by the Authority following assessment of the amended proposed communication rules and submissions received from interested parties.

Confidentiality

In general, all submissions from interested parties will be treated as in the public domain and placed on the Authority's website. Where an interested party wishes to make a submission in confidence, it should clearly indicate the parts of the submission in respect of which confidentiality is claimed, and specify in reasonable detail the basis upon which the claim is made.

The receipt and publication of any submission lodged for the purposes of the Customer Transfer Code shall not be taken as indicating that the Authority has knowledge, either actual or constructive, of the contents of a particular submission and, in particular, whether the submission in whole or part contains information of a confidential nature and no duty of confidence will arise for the Authority in these circumstances.

For further information contact:

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LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

10 October 2005