

NOTICE

National Framework for Reporting Performance on Urban Water Suppliers

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON PROPOSED LICENCE AMENDMENTS FOR AQWEST, BUSSELTON WATER BOARD, CITY OF KALGOORLIE – BOULDER AND THE WATER CORPORATION

The Economic Regulation Authority is proposing to amend the licences of four Western Australian urban water and wastewater service providers to ensure they comply with the National Reporting Framework of the National Water Initiative Agreement.

Western Australia became a signatory of the NWI agreement, joining the Commonwealth and the other States and Territories, in April 2006.

Under the NWI Agreement, the signatories agreed to report independently, publicly, and on an annual basis, benchmarking data on the pricing and service quality of urban and rural water utilities.

In WA, this will mean changes to the water service licences of Aqwest-Bunbury Water Board, Busselton Water Board, the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Water Corporation, requiring them to collect and provide performance data to the Authority.

A reporting model has been developed to assist the utilities with National benchmarking. It includes a set of performance indicators and related definitions that have been collated into a data handbook to help the utilities develop/adjust their performance reporting systems to begin reporting against the national benchmarking framework. The data handbook is available on the National Water Commission (NWC) website, www.nwc.gov.au and the Authority's website, www.era.wa.gov.au.

The performance indicators and definitions contained in the data handbook are designed for water services in metropolitan and non metropolitan urban areas with more than 10,000 connections.

The indicator set provided in the data handbook is grouped under the headings of: Water resources; Asset data; Customers; Environment; Pricing and finance; and Health.

The performance indicators were developed after extensive consultation with stakeholders including the state governments, the Commonwealth, WSAA and independent regulators, including the Authority, Essential Services Commission of Victoria and the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales.

Interested parties are invited to comment on the detail of the proposed licence amendments. The proposed licence amendments are available on the Authority's website at www.era.wa.gov.au.

Submissions should be in both printed and electronic form and should be received by 4:00pm WST 25 January 2007.

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 on the Authority's website 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.

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