

NOTICE

Inquiry on School Bus Operators' Charter Bus Operations

DRAFT REPORT

The Economic Regulation Authority today published a draft report on its inquiry into school bus operators' charter bus operations. A copy of the report may be accessed on the Authority's [web site](#).

The Terms of Reference for the inquiry require the Authority to consider and report on:

- the impact that the participation by school bus contractors in the commercial bus charter industry has on competition, prices and pricing policy, investment and business practices, and service quality and reliability in the industry;
- the revenues and costs of school bus contractors under their contracts with the Public Transport Authority; and
- whether, and how, the service charge model in the school bus service contracts could be amended to remedy any competitive unfairness which might arise from the participation by school bus contractors in the commercial bus charter industry.

The draft report presents the preliminary views of the Authority regarding the participation by school bus operators in the commercial charter bus industry. The key preliminary views are as follows:

- The Authority has at this stage found no evidence that school bus operators are adversely impacting on competition in the charter industry.
- On the evidence available, the Authority considers that there are likely to be few net benefits to the State from introducing charter fees for charter work undertaken by school bus operators.

The Authority welcomes submissions on these and other preliminary views presented in the report. In particular, the Authority would be interested to receive comments from commercial charter bus operators regarding any impacts on competition in the industry due to school bus operators.

Submissions are invited from stakeholders, industry, government and the general community, and should be in written and electronic form (where possible) and addressed to:

Inquiry on School Bus Operators' Charter Bus Operations
Economic Regulation Authority
PO Box 8469
Perth Business Centre
PERTH WA 6849

Email: schoolbuses@era.wa.gov.au
Fax: (08) 9213 1999

Submissions must be received by 4.00 pm Thursday 31 May 2007 WST.

The Terms of Reference require the Final Report for the inquiry to be delivered to the Treasurer by 31 May 2007. However, the Authority will be applying to the Treasurer to have the final reporting date deferred until 29 June 2007 to allow sufficient time for public consultation on the Draft Report. Following receipt of the Final Report, the Treasurer will, in accordance with the Act, have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

For further information contact:

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