



**Department for Planning and Infrastructure**  
Government of Western Australia

Our Ref: 801/1/1/59PV2  
Enquiries: Julia Horsley  
Telephone No: 9264 7633  
Facsimile No: 9264 7776

Inquiry on Developer Contributions to the Water Corporation  
Economic Regulation Authority  
PO Box 8469  
Perth Business Centre  
PERTH WA 6849

Attn: Mr Lyndon Rowe, Chairman

Dear Mr Rowe

**ERA Inquiry into Developer Contributions to the Water Corporation**

Thank you for providing the Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and the Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC) with the opportunity to comment on the Issues Paper, *Inquiry into Developer Contributions to the Water Corporation* dated 31 October 2007 prepared by the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA).

The preliminary view of the WAPC and DPI, as a joint general position on this matter, is as set forth below.

1. The main concern is that in the current circumstances where issues of land release and housing affordability need to be given priority, any changes to the system of developer contributions which might create uncertainty should be avoided.
2. The current system of developer contributions has widespread industry acceptance and is consistent with the planning approval process.
3. The uniform State-wide charge used by Water Corporation promotes clarity and certainty, and is equitable in supporting the servicing and development of regional areas.
4. The WAPC and DPI support refinements to the methodology or basis for calculating charges to create an incentive for developers to adopt water cycle management strategies (for example rebates or discounts for infrastructure which reduces potable water consumption and/or increases use of recycling and on-site containment of stormwater wherever appropriate).

The WAPC and DPI have not been able to complete their consideration of these matters in the time available and hope that we may be able to provide a more detailed response in the new year.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters further, please contact Julia Horsley, Acting Policy and Legislation Officer, on 9264 7633 or via email [Julia.Horsley@dpi.wa.gov.au](mailto:Julia.Horsley@dpi.wa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Eric Lumsden  
*Director General*

 1/2/2007