Economic Regulation Authority

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Promoting fair prices, quality services and choice.

NOTICE

Invitation to Comment on Draft Gas Customer Code

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Economic Regulation Authority today released the draft Gas Customer Code for public consultation. The draft Gas Customer Code is available on the Authority's <u>web site</u>.

The Authority proposes to develop a Gas Customer Code, as a licence condition in all Gas Trading and Distribution Licences, to replace current provisions related to customer protection. In doing so, the Authority intends to ensure that redundant provisions are removed and that the licence is streamlined.

The creation of a Gas Customer Code will ensure that, as far as practicable, small use gas customers will receive protection commensurate with electricity consumers and that conduct requirements across the energy industry are largely consistent regardless of the fuel type.

The Authority welcomes submissions from the public by close of business on **Friday 18 July 2008**.

The draft Code contains a proposal to define a 'small retailer' and to provide an exemption from some parts of the Code for such an entity. The Authority is particularly interested in public comments regarding this matter, including a proposed supply threshold for a 'small retailer'.

The draft Code has been based on the format of the Electricity *Code of Conduct for the Supply of Electricity to Small Use Customers.* Some sections have been left blank intentionally to identify the areas of differentiation between the two Codes.

Submissions can be emailed to <u>gcc@era.wa.gov.au</u> or addressed to:

Economic Regulation Authority PO Box 8469 Perth Business Centre PERTH WA 6849

Fax: (08) 9213 1999

Submissions made to the Authority will be treated as in the public domain and placed on the Authority's web site unless confidentiality is claimed. The submission or parts of the submission in relation to which confidentiality is claimed should be clearly marked. Any claim of confidentiality will be dealt with in the same way as is provided for in section 55 of the *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003*.

For further information contact:

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LYNDON ROWE CHAIRMAN

30 May 2008