

Level 6, Governor Stirling Tower 197 St Georges Terrace Perth Western Australia 6000
 Telephone
 61
 8
 9213
 1900

 Facsimile
 61
 8
 9213
 1999

 Website
 www.era.wa.gov.au

GPO Box 8469 Perth Business Centre Western Australia 6849

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NOTICE

Inquiry into Water Resource Management and Planning Charges

The Treasurer, the Hon Troy Buswell, MLA, has requested the Economic Regulation Authority to conduct an inquiry into water resource management and planning charges.

Mr Lyndon Rowe, the Authority's Chairman, said that in accordance with the inquiry's <u>Terms</u> of <u>Reference</u>, the Authority will provide the Government with a range of options and recommendations for the recovery of the water resource planning and management costs incurred by the Department of Water.

The Authority must also consider the most appropriate regulatory arrangements for the setting of service standards for the resource manager, the setting of the charges and the recovery of charges from water users.

In developing its recommendations, the Authority is to consider each of the activities undertaken by the Department of Water in the efficient management of the State's water resources, and to recommend what level of these costs should be recovered from water users, and how.

The Authority must also take into account any impacts on water users, as well as how any recommendations could be implemented.

The Authority will shortly publish an issues paper to help interested parties understand the matters under review and to facilitate public comment and debate. The issues paper, and information on how to make a submission, will be published on the Authority's web site.

After considering the responses to the issues paper, the Authority will publish a draft report for further public consultation.

The final report for the inquiry is due to be delivered to the State Government by 2 January 2010, after which the Government will have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

For further information contact:

General Enquiries

Dr Ursula Kretzer Manager, References and Research Ph: 61 8 9213 1900 Fax: 61 8 9213 1999

LYNDON ROWE CHAIRMAN **Media Enquiries**

Mr Paul Byrne Byrne & Byrne Corporate Communications Ph: 61 8 9336 2081 Mb: 0417 922 452

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