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NOTICE

New Pre-Payment Meter Amendments Proposed to Code

Under the *Electricity Industry Act 2004* (Act), the Authority may, after consultation with the Electricity Code Consultative Committee (ECCC), approve a code of conduct which applies to electricity retail, distribution and integrated regional licence holders, and electricity marketing agents.

The Economic Regulation Authority has proposed a new set of amendments to Part 9 and Part 13 of the *Code of Conduct for the Supply of Electricity to Small Use Customers* in relation to the operation of electricity pre-payment meters (PPM) in Western Australia.

A copy of the Authority's Decision, including the proposed amendments is available on the Authority's <u>web site</u>.

In May 2009, the Authority proposed to the ECCC, several amendments to the Code, which would remove the existing barriers to the operation of PPM whilst addressing customer issues and ensuring consumer protection similar to other Australian jurisdictions, including the provisions proposed in the National Energy Market.

The Authority requested that the ECCC provide advice regarding the proposed amendments and whether further or alternative amendments are recommended.

As required by the Act, the ECCC provided interested parties with the opportunity to comment.

The ECCC received a total of 11 submissions. A copy of each of these submissions is available on the Authority's <u>web site</u>.

The ECCC provided advice on the proposed amendments on 3 December 2009. A copy of the ECCC advice is available on the Authority's <u>web site</u>.

The amendments that are now proposed by the Authority are those recommended by the ECCC. Accordingly, some of the amendments differ from those originally proposed by the Authority in May 2009.

The Authority is yet to make a final decision regarding these amendments. Following receipt of the next round of ECCC advice, the Authority may choose to proceed with the proposed amendments. Alternatively, the Authority may accept further or other recommended amendments from the ECCC.

The Authority requires that the ECCC provide its advice by 1 March 2010.

Further information about the ECCC is available on the Authority's web site.

For further information contact:

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LYNDON ROWE CHAIRMAN

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