



Economic Regulation Authority

 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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Promoting fair prices, quality services and choice.

NOTICE

Invitation for Public Submissions

WA GAS NETWORKS PROPOSED REVISED ACCESS ARRANGEMENT FOR THE MID-WEST AND SOUTH WEST GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

The Economic Regulation Authority is seeking public comment on the proposed revised Access Arrangement for the Mid-West and South West Gas Distribution Systems (GDS).

The proposed revisions were lodged by WA Gas Networks Pty Ltd (WAGN) for approval by the Authority under the *National Gas Access (Western Australia) Act 2009* (NGA) which came into effect in Western Australia on 1 January 2010. The NGA amends and implements the National Gas Law (NGL) and the National Gas Rules (NGR) in Western Australia.

On 29 January 2010, WAGN as owner of the GDS submitted its [Access Arrangement](#), [Access Arrangement Information](#) and [supporting information](#) to the Authority. The GDS consists of reticulated gas networks in Western Australia which serve Geraldton, Bunbury, Busselton, Harvey, Pinjarra, Brunswick Junction, Capel and the Perth Greater Metropolitan Area including Mandurah. These combined networks constitute approximately 12,000km of gas mains and associated infrastructure and service approximately 600,000 residential and business customers.

The Authority has identified three entities as service providers under the NGL. These are WAGN, WA Network Holdings Pty Ltd and Westnet Energy Services Pty Ltd. The NGL only places an obligation on service providers to submit an access arrangement if they fall into the category of being a covered pipeline service provider. In the case of the GDS, the Authority considers that only WAGN is a covered pipeline service provider and therefore has an obligation to submit revisions to the GDS access arrangement.

The Access Arrangement sets out the terms and conditions under which WAGN will provide third party users access to the GDS and the Access Arrangement Information and supporting information is to help interested parties better understand WAGN's proposed revisions. It should be noted that reference tariffs are independent of retail tariffs that apply to general small business and household consumers.

The NGR requires that as soon as practicable after receiving a full access arrangement proposal, the Authority must publish an initiating notice on its web site and in a newspaper with general circulation around Australia. This notice is published as an initiating notice in accordance with the requirements of the NGR.

The Authority intends to publish an issues paper by the end of February 2010 to assist interested parties in preparing submissions on WAGN's proposed revisions.

Public Submissions

Interested parties are invited to make submissions on WAGN's proposed revised access arrangement for the GDS in printed and electronic form by **4:00 pm (WST) on Monday, 12 April 2010**.

Submissions should be marked to the attention of Jennifer Hughes, Project Manager

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Office address: Level 6, 197 St Georges Terrace, PERTH WA 6849

Email address: publicsubmissions@era.wa.gov.au

Confidentiality

In general, all submissions from interested parties will be treated as being in the public domain and placed on the Authority's web site. Where an interested party wishes to make a submission in confidence, it should clearly indicate the parts of the submission for which confidentiality is claimed, and specify in reasonable detail the basis for the claim.

Any claim of confidentiality will be considered in accordance with the provisions of the NGA.

The publication of a submission on the Authority's web site shall not be taken as indicating that the Authority has knowledge either actual or constructive of the contents of a particular submission and, in particular, whether the submission in whole or part contains information of a confidential nature and no duty of confidence will arise for the Authority.

For further information contact:

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LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

12 February 2010