



Economic Regulation Authority

 WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Level 6 Governor Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Terrace
Perth Western Australia 6000

PO Box 8469
PERTH Business Centre
Western Australia 6849

Telephone: 61 8 9213 1900
Facsimile: 61 8 9213 1999
Website: www.erawa.com.au

Promoting fair prices, quality services & choice

NOTICE

Inquiry into the Costs and Benefits of the State Underground Power Program

The Economic Regulation Authority (Authority), at the request of the Treasurer, will conduct an inquiry into the overall costs and benefits of the State Underground Power Program.

In accordance with the inquiry's Terms of Reference, the Authority is required to have regard to the costs of undergrounding the overhead electricity distribution network, compare the costs associated with maintaining the current distribution network with the costs of undergrounding, and determine the types of costs which are avoided as a result of undergrounding the overhead electricity distribution network.

The Authority is also required to identify and quantify (where possible) all costs and benefits of underground power and undertake an analysis of the distribution and timing of benefits, including an appraisal of who benefits and the overall public benefit to the wider community.

In particular, the Authority is to report on what the appropriate share of funding is between the Government, individual households and Western Power. The cost benefit study is limited to the undergrounding of power in the South West Interconnected System.

The Authority will shortly publish an issues paper to help interested parties understand the matters under review and to facilitate submissions. The issues paper and information on how to make a submission will be published on the Authority's website.

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 23 April 2011, after which the Government will have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

A copy of the Terms of Reference is available on the Authority's [website](#).

For further information contact:

General Enquiries

Sara Procter
Assistant Director
References & Research
Ph: 61 8 9213 1900
Fax: 61 8 9213 1999

Media Enquiries

Ms Sue McKenna
Ms Joanne Fowler
The Communications Branch Pty Ltd
Ph: 61 8 9472 4411
Mb: 0424 196 771 (Sue McKenna)
0408 878 817 (Joanne Fowler)

LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

4 May 2010