



NOTICE

Invitation for Public Submissions

INQUIRY INTO THE STATE UNDERGROUND POWER PROGRAM COST BENEFIT STUDY

The Economic Regulation Authority (**Authority**) has published an issues paper on its inquiry into the overall costs and benefits of the State Underground Power Program (**SUPP**) and is calling for public comment. The issues paper, which is available from the Authority's [website](#), is to help interested parties understand the matters under review and to facilitate public comment and debate.

The inquiry into the costs and benefits of the SUPP was requested by the Treasurer on 23 April 2010. The Authority is to consider the costs of undergrounding the overhead electricity distribution network within the South West Interconnected System, 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 addition, the Authority is to report on the appropriate share of funding of the project between the Government, individual households and Western Power.

Interested parties are invited to make submissions on the issues paper. Information on how to make a submission is published on the Authority's [website](#). Submissions should be lodged no later than **4.00pm (WST) on Friday 6 August 2010**.

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.

For further information contact:

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