



CONSULTATION

Inquiry into the Benefits and Costs Associated with the Provision of Shared Corporate Services within the Public Sector

The Economic Regulation Authority is seeking comment from public sector agencies, the relevant unions and private sector partners of the Office of Shared Services (OSS) on the Terms of Reference for the above inquiry.

The Treasurer of the State of Western Australia has requested that the Authority undertake an inquiry into the benefits and costs associated with the provision of shared corporate services within the public sector.

In accordance with the inquiry's [Terms of Reference](#), the Authority will report on the effectiveness and efficiency of the OSS at its current level of operations and how the effectiveness and efficiency is likely to vary with the number of agencies it services. Furthermore, the Authority needs to consider the impact that rolling-in to the OSS has had on the operations of client agencies and whether this has translated into a net benefit to the State. The Authority then has to consider if rolling-in the remaining agencies will also provide a net benefit to the State or if alternative options for the provision of shared services within the public sector would provide a greater net benefit.

The Authority will circulate an issues paper to invited parties to give sufficient background information to assist them to understand the nature of the issues under review and to facilitate debate around this inquiry. However, given the condensed timeframe for the inquiry and the familiarity of Government Departments with the OSS, the issues paper is relatively brief. Additionally, there will be no draft report and only one consultation period during this inquiry. Following the Authority's investigation and scrutiny of submissions, a final report will be presented to the Treasurer by 31 March 2011. The Treasurer will then have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

Invited parties are requested to make submissions in print and electronic form on the Terms of Reference and the issues paper by close of business **on Friday, 4 February 2011**.

Submissions should be marked to the attention of Bruce Layman, Director, References and Research.

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Confidentiality

In this inquiry all submissions will be treated as confidential and will not be published on the Authority's website.

For further information contact:

General Enquiries

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LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

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