

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 public comment from public sector agencies, the relevant unions and private sector partners of the Office of Shared Services (OSS) on the draft report for the 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 and amended Terms of Reference, the Authority is reviewing 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 is also considering 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 is also considering 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's initial findings on these issues are presented in the draft report for the inquiry.

Following the Authority's investigation and scrutiny of submissions a final report will be presented to the Treasurer by 10 June 2011. The Treasurer will then have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

Invited parties are invited to make submissions in print and electronic form on the draft report by **4:00 pm (WST) on Friday, 20 May 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In this inquiry all submissions will be treated as confidential and will not be published on the Authority's <u>website</u>.

For further information contact:

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LYNDON ROWE CHAIRMAN

5 May 2011