

Community Electricity

Submission in Response to ERA Public Consultation

Application for exemption from certain requirements of the Technical Rules submitted by Western Power - Additional supply to the Geraldton Port Authority

Standing

Community Electricity (“Community”) is a member of the Technical Rules Committee.

The Authority has not referred this issue to the Technical Rules Committee, and Community is responding in a private capacity.

Community has no commercial interest in the Authority’s determination.

Assessment

Community notes that:

- The existing network configuration is unable to deliver a network reference service to the Geraldton Port Authority (GPA);
- Western Power has agreed with GPA, being a well-resourced entity, acceptable terms of provision of a non- reference service on a temporary basis until the ongoing Mid West Energy Project is complete;
- The non- reference service involves a reduced level of supply quality and reliability that will be confined to only the load-increase in question, and no other user will be affected, including the existing GPA load;
- Western Power considers that there are no suitable generators currently installed that are capable of providing Network Control Services cost-effectively which would facilitate provision of a reference service.

On this basis, Community supports Western Power’s application on the grounds that it is a reasonable, cost-effective and pragmatic means of meeting the customer’s needs in a timely manner, thereby optimising use of the existing network, delivering additional service and increasing revenue. While not directly relevant to the matter, we also note that the material impact on the customer is akin to that of the Demand Side Management product made available on a voluntary and remunerated basis to contestable customers via the Wholesale Electricity Market.

Additional

In response to the specific issues raised by the Authority, Community advises that it accepts in good faith Western Power’s representations and is not otherwise aware of any material impact on other users or reasonable alternative options that could facilitate provision of a reference service.

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Contact

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