

To whom it may concern,

I read with concern the Economic Regulation Authorities (ERA) 'Inquiry into Microeconomic Reform in Western Australia – Draft Report' document, in particular recommendation 4.

The Royalties for Regions program has been extremely important over the past few years from the Shire of Collies perspective. The Program has enabled the Council to address significant infrastructure backlogs which the Council would not have been otherwise able to fund. In addition it has provided employment opportunities for local contracts and helped stimulate the local economy.

Despite hosting significant mining and power generation activities for the benefit of the state, the Shire of Collie receives minimal rating income from these operations due to the impact of State Agreement Acts and the Royalties for Regions program is seen as a way in which the Council can receive a financial return to which it would not otherwise be entitled.

For these reasons, the Shire of Collie requests that Royalties for Regions legislation is neither repealed or reduced from year to year as part of the State Governments Annual Budget Processes.

Regards,

Acting CEO
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