



Media Statement

11 January 2017

Review of the Emergency Services Levy

Western Australians will soon be invited to have their say on the Emergency Services Levy (ESL).

Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) chair, Nicky Cusworth, said the Treasurer has asked the ERA to review the ESL and recommend options to improve how it is managed and spent.

Ms Cusworth said the review arose from a recommendation of the *Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire*, prepared by Mr Euan Ferguson.

“A key task of our review will be to examine how funding from the ESL is allocated among different activities, and whether better outcomes can be achieved by changing how the State uses the funds raised.

“The ERA will also assess the arrangements for collecting and distributing the ESL to ensure these are fair and transparent, and whether the arrangements will meet the long-term needs of the State.

“The Government is investigating the establishment of a rural fire service – another recommendation of the Ferguson Report. The Treasurer has asked us to examine the extent to which the ESL should be available to fund a rural fire service and how this would impact on ESL rates.

“These are complex issues and so public consultation will be an important part of the ERA’s review process. We will soon publish an issues paper and invite submissions. This will be followed by the release of a draft report and a further opportunity for comment,” Ms Cusworth said.

The terms of reference for the review are available on the ERA [website](#).

The ERA is required to provide the Treasurer with its final report, including recommendations, no later than 29 September 2017.

Ends

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