



Media Statement

30 January 2017

Emergency Services Levy funding under review

Western Australians are 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.

The ERA has published an issues paper explaining the review process and posing questions for interested parties.

“We’re interested in views on how ESL funding should be allocated across preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural hazards,” Ms Cusworth said

“A key task of our review will be to consider whether the method used to set the ESL is appropriate for meeting current and future needs. We’re seeking opinions on how the method for setting the ESL could be improved,” she said.

“Transparency and accountability in funding arrangements are vital for public confidence. We would like input on who should decide how ESL revenue is allocated to different services. We’re also interested in what information should be made public about ESL funding, and what checks and balances should be in place to ensure ESL revenue is spent appropriately.

“The State Government supports the establishment of a rural fire service, and we’re seeking views on whether ESL revenue should be available to fund the cost of a rural fire service and what effect this might have on ESL rates.

Ms Cusworth said public consultation is an important part of the ERA review process, and submissions to the issues paper will help inform the development of a draft report.

“We will also seek submissions in response to the draft report, which will be published in mid-2017.”

A copy of the issues paper and 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

For media and general queries please contact Paul Kelly, Executive Director Regulation and Inquiries, on 08 6557 7900 or 0419 666 233 or email communications@erawa.com.au