

Our Ref: 1278/05

NOTICE

WESTERN POWER CORPORATION NETWORKS BUSINESS CUSTOMER TRANSFER CODE COMMUNICATION RULES

The Economic Regulation Authority has determined to not approve the communication rules proposed by Western Power Corporation's Networks Business Unit (Western Power) on 7 July 2005.

Western Power is required to resubmit to the Authority amended proposed communication rules that comply with the requirements of Part 5 of the *Electricity Industry Customer Transfer Code 2004* (Customer Transfer Code) by 30 September, 2005.

Communication rules detail how transactions relating to the transfer of contestable customers are to be executed between the networks business of Western Power and retailers of electricity. These rules govern the format and protocols for exchanging information and data.

The Authority published and invited comment on Western Power's proposed communications rules, with an accompanying report, on 14 July 2005.

Three submissions were received. These submissions, and the proposed communication rules and accompanying report from Western Power, are available from the Authority's website:

<http://www.era.wa.gov.au/electricity/customerTransferCode.cfm>.

The submissions received from retailers make it evident that the proposed communication rules remain incomplete and lack sufficient detail to support the customer transfer process.

The intent of the Customer Transfer Code is for the network service provider and retailers to develop agreed communication rules prior to their submission to the Authority. The Authority's role is restricted to assuring the consistency of such agreed communication rules with the Code and that they are reasonable. The Authority recognises that it is a matter for Western Power to undertake the detailed processes that will be required to finalise the development of the communication rules.

Further information is available from Mr Alistair Butcher, Acting Director – Electricity Access, on (08) 9213 1916.

LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

10 August 2005

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