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NOTICE

Release of Final Report for the Review of the REMCo Gas Retail Market Scheme

The Economic Regulation Authority has released the final report on its review of the Retail Energy Market Company (REMCo) gas Retail Market Scheme (RMS).

REMCo is the gas retail market administrator for South Australia and Western Australia.

The final report is available on the Authority's web site.

The report concluded that the RMS was operating satisfactorily and that no changes were warranted for it to achieve the purposes set out in section 11ZOB of the Act.

The report also recommended that REMCo address the training needs identified by some market participants in relation to the swing service rules.

Background

The RMS began operating on 31 May 2004 when gas Full Retail Contestability (FRC) reforms commenced in Western Australia. The aim of the scheme was to ensure that the retail gas market supplied through a distribution system was regulated and operated in a manner that was:

- open and competitive;
- · efficient; and
- fair to gas market participants and their customers.

The Authority is responsible for administering Part 2B of the *Energy Coordination Act 1994* (Act) relating to Gas supply: retail market schemes. Under section 11ZOQ of this Act, the Authority is required to carry out a review of the RMS after the third anniversary of its commencement.

On 20 August 2007, the Authority commenced its review through the release of an issues paper and invited submissions from interested parties on REMCo's gas RMS. Five submissions were received - from Alinta Sales Pty Ltd, the APA Group, Dampier Bunbury Pipeline, Synergy and the Office of Energy - which are available on the Authority's web site.

After considering these submissions, the Authority prepared a draft report which was released on 2 January 2008. In its draft report, the Authority concluded that the REMCo gas RMS was operating satisfactorily and that no changes appeared to be warranted for it to achieve the purposes set out in section 11ZOB of the Act.

The Authority made one recommendation, that REMCo address the training concerns expressed by a number of market participants on the swing service rules, by arranging for a suitable training provider to provide the required training on appropriate commercial terms.

REMCo made a submission on the draft report which is available on the Authority's <u>web site</u>. After considering this submission, the Authority prepared its final report.

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