

28 May 2018

Economic Regulation Authority
PO Box 8469
PERTH BC WA 6849

Via email: publicsubmissions@erawa.com.au

To whom it may concern

DRAFT DECISION ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCESS ARRANGEMENT FOR THE WESTERN POWER NETWORK

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback in relation to the above *Draft Decision on Proposed Revisions to the Access Arrangement for the Western Power Network*. The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) WA is the peak body representing the property development industry in Western Australia. UDIA is a membership organisation with members drawn from the residential, commercial and industrial property development sectors. UDIA members include both private and public sector organisations. Our industry represents approximately 12.3% of Western Australia's Gross State Product, contributing \$30.45 billion annually to the Western Australian economy and \$251.7 billion nationally. As well as helping to create sustainable and liveable communities, the industry employs a total of 228,500 Western Australians and over 2 million Australians across the country.

Urban Development Institute of Australia and Western Power share a common interest in reliable, safe and sustainable grid-supplied electricity for Western Australians. Property developers are always keen to embrace new technology to meet customers' demands and provide more energy efficient solutions.

UDIA understands that the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) is currently considering Western Power's fourth Access Arrangement (AA4) proposal.

Western Power recently advised the Institute of its proposal to install advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) with supporting communication infrastructure for new and replacement meters over the AA4 period. The introduction of AMI would enable Western Power to improve demand management, network planning and safety, improve fault identification and service restoration, and to enable innovative products and services including solar, peer to peer and microgrids. Our understanding is that the implementation of AMI would be minimal, at no cost to developers it would not impact housing affordability, whilst the minimal annual costs to consumers could be offset through smarter tariffs. However, the ERA's draft AA4 decision indicates that while it considered

installing advanced cable meters to be consistent with good electricity practice, it was not convinced of the benefits of investing in the associated communication infrastructure.

UDIA supports innovation and the introduction of technology that provides more detailed and reliable energy data in an efficient and cost effective manner. Furthermore, this technology offers potential benefits to UDIA members to work alongside Western Power and retailers to provide more energy efficient solutions for all users particularly in times of rapidly developing emerging technology.

Given the benefits of this technology and its minimal costs, UDIA supports Western Power's appraisal that the deployment of AMI is the logical next step in providing safe and sustainable grid-supplied electricity for Western Australians.

Should the ERA require any assistance or further information regarding this matter, the UDIA would be delighted to assist. Should any further information be required in relation to the comments above, please contact Chris Green, Director Policy and Research at cgreen@udiawa.com.au or 9215 3400.

Yours sincerely



Allison Hailes
Chief Executive Officer