

11 May 2018

Nicola Cusworth  
Chair, Economic Regulation Authority  
Level 4, Albert Facey House  
469 Wellington Street  
Perth WA 6000

Dear Ms Cusworth

**WESTERN POWER ACCESS ARRANGEMENT – USE OF AMI TO SUPPORT TRANSITION TO LOW-COST, LOW-CARBON ENERGY SYSTEM**

This letter is intended to provide support for the introduction of communications-enabled Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology across the Western Power network as part of AA4.

Power Ledger is a Western Australian company, formed in May 2016, that uses blockchain technology to provide an alternate model for the reconciliation and settlement of energy transactions. Power Ledger's technology allows consumers with embedded renewable energy generating technology (in the most part solar photovoltaic panels) to sell their excess energy to their neighbours.

The technology and business model were devised to support the transition of mature energy systems into dynamic, consumer-centric and renewable distributed energy markets.

Our business model and the benefits we provide to consumers are dependent on access to close-to-real-time energy consumption data from digital smart meters (communications-enabled AMI).

It is Power Ledger's view that innovative market settlement models, such as peer-to-peer trading and other distribution-level settlement opportunities require access to close-to-real-time energy consumption data to provide opportunities for consumers to participate in the energy market in a manner that is reconcilable with existing wholesale market settlement processes.

Beyond the obvious network benefits of remote meter-reading, remote connection and disconnection, remote fault detection and power quality correction, communications-enabled AMI is a gateway technology that supports the managed deployment of distributed energy resources in a manner that encourages consumers and prosumers to maintain their connection to the grid.

Through the use of communications-enabled AMI, alternate energy buying/selling arrangements, that provide additional benefits to consumers, can be adopted.

Through the use of communications-enabled AMI, economic signals can encourage consumer behaviours that benefit individual consumers, improve network conditions and encourage the efficient deployment of energy resource capacity.

Close-to-real-time access to metering data will allow small-use customers to participate in demand-side management opportunities that are currently only accessible to large-scale consumers.

Importantly, close-to-real-time access to energy meter data will present opportunities for Western Power to develop innovative consumer engagement products that assist with the achievement of power quality and reliability standards that will become increasingly difficult to achieve if DER's continue to grow in popularity.

It is Power Ledger's strong view that communications-enabled AMI metering should be adopted across the SWIN in order to unlock the consumer-side benefits of Distributed Energy Resources and to assist in the managed transition to a distributed energy future.

Yours sincerely

David Martin

Managing Director and Co-founder

**Power Ledger**