



Western Australia

Economic Regulation Authority

NOTICE

Inquiry into the Cost of Supplying Bulk Potable Water to Kalgoorlie-Boulder

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON THE DRAFT REPORT

The Economic Regulation Authority (Authority) is conducting an inquiry, at the request of the State Government of Western Australia, into the cost of supplying bulk potable water to Kalgoorlie-Boulder and surrounding regions.

The inquiry is comparing the costs and benefits of two options for supplying bulk potable water to Kalgoorlie-Boulder. The options are: the expansion of existing supplies by the Water Corporation along the main conduit of the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme; and an alternative proposal by United Utilities Australia (UUA) to desalinate seawater in Esperance and pipe the potable water to Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

A Draft Report has now been released and can be downloaded from the Authority website at www.era.wa.gov.au or obtained from the Authority on (08) 9213 1900.

Authority Chairman Mr Lyndon Rowe said, "Based on the information received from the Water Corporation and UUA, the Authority's draft finding is that the benefits of the UUA proposal do not outweigh the costs. However, the report has been released for comment and I would encourage all interested parties to make submissions to the Authority."

The Authority has analysed the costs of the UUA proposal in comparison to the costs that would be avoided by the Water Corporation and mining companies if the UUA proposal were to proceed. The assessment took into account the value of the water that would be saved for use in Perth if Kalgoorlie-Boulder was supplied from Esperance. Impacts on regional development, the end consumer and the State Government's finances were also considered.

The Authority invites submissions on the Draft Report, which must be received by **4 pm on Friday 29 July 2005**. Submissions should be in written and electronic form (where possible) and addressed to:

**Inquiry into the Cost of Supplying Bulk Potable Water to Kalgoorlie-Boulder
Economic Regulation Authority
Level 6, Governor Stirling Tower
197 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000**

**Email: watersubmissions@era.wa.gov.au
Fax: (08) 9213 1999**

Submissions made to the Authority will be treated as in the public domain and placed on the Authority website unless confidentiality is claimed. The submission or parts of the submission in relation to which confidentiality is claimed should be clearly marked. Any claim of confidentiality will be dealt with in the same way as is provided for in section 55 of the *Economic Regulation Authority Act 2003*.

The receipt and publication of any submission lodged shall not be taken as indicating that the Authority has formed an opinion as to whether or not any particular submission contains any information of a confidential nature and no duty of confidence will arise from the Authority in these circumstances.

The Final Report, including recommendations, will be submitted to the Minister by 16 September 2005, who will have 28 days to table the report in Parliament.

LYNDON ROWE
CHAIRMAN

30 June 2005

Media Contact: Ms Linda Byrne Telephone: (08) 9385 9941 Mobile: 0403 835 733