



# Electricity Reform Fact Sheet

## Electricity Reform: Regional

The State Government understands that a safe, reliable, efficient and affordable electricity supply is an essential part of life for regional Western Australia.

Electricity consumers in the regions are well protected under the proposed electricity reform and are set to benefit from better service.

A State-owned Regional Power entity will be established to specifically look after regional Western Australia.

Electricity prices will be capped, with the existing uniform tariff remaining. This means regional consumers will pay no more than the maximum price paid by those in the metropolitan area.

There will also be a strong, independent regulatory system to protect consumer interests.

### THE NEW LOOK FOR REGIONAL POWER

At the moment, regional needs have to compete with the other priorities of Western Power.

One aim of the industry reforms is to provide opportunities for private sector investment in generation plant in the South West Interconnected System (SWIS). This will potentially free up Government funding for upgrading the network to address reliability problems.

Also, the new Regional Power entity will be a Government-owned authority specifically charged with looking after the interests of regional electricity consumers – both residential and business.

It will be an independent entity with two distinct business units carrying out Western Power's current activities – one covering the North West Interconnected System (NWIS) and the other covering regional areas outside the South West Interconnected System.

The Regional Power entity will be funded in much the same way as it is now and will continue to be subsidised by around \$50 million a year.

### SAFE, RELIABLE SUPPLY

Regional Power's creation as a separate business means it can focus on localised service delivery, with the potential for services to be expanded into new areas.

The Regional Power entity and State Networks (the transmission and distribution business) will be subject to technical and safety regulations to ensure adequate reliability, quality and security of supply in regional areas.

The Regional Power entity will also have an obligation to ensure it has sufficient generation capacity to maintain reliability at the lowest efficient cost.

### REGIONAL JOBS

The creation of an independent Regional Power entity and a new Networks business is likely to increase the employment prospects of its employees in rural depots. These depots primarily provide network services to rural areas inside the SWIS.

### FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT ELECTRICITY REFORM

Further information on electricity reform is available on the website <http://www.eri.energy.wa.gov.au>

Enquiries can be made to the Electricity Reform Implementation Unit on (08) 9420 5750 or by email to [eri@energy.wa.gov.au](mailto:eri@energy.wa.gov.au)





**October 2003**

Image source: Sustainable Energy Development Office  
 Printed on environmentally friendly chlorine free paper  
 made from sustainable plantation timber.



**Office of Energy**  
 Government of Western Australia

Level 8, Governor Stirling Tower  
 197 St Georges Terrace  
 PERTH WA 6000

Telephone (08) 9420 5750  
 Fax (08) 9420 5755

Email [eriu@energy.wa.gov.au](mailto:eriu@energy.wa.gov.au)  
 Website [www.eriu.energy.wa.gov.au](http://www.eriu.energy.wa.gov.au)

**Electricity Reform Implementation Unit**