



MEDIA STATEMENT

15 FEBRUARY 2008

## Public feedback sought on review of gas retail tariffs

Public submissions are invited on an Issues Paper released today as part of the 'Gas Tariffs Review'.

Gas retail tariffs are set out under the *Energy Coordination (Gas Tariffs) Regulations 2000* (the "Tariff Regulations").

The Tariff Regulations cap the retail price of gas to small use customers (households and small business customers using less than 1 terajoule of gas per annum) in the areas covered by the Tariff Regulations. This includes the Mid-West/South West (including the Perth metropolitan area), Albany, and Kalgoorlie-Boulder areas.

The Gas Tariffs Review involves an assessment of:

- the level and structure of gas retail tariffs;
- incentives for gas consumers to negotiate alternative supply arrangements;
- timing for any necessary changes to the tariff caps, including the transition process for amendment of the tariff caps; and
- the appropriate mechanism and responsibility for future adjustment of the tariff caps.

Coordinator of Energy, Jason Banks, said the review will take into account cost reflectivity, the ability of the tariff caps to promote competition, and the impact of any tariff changes on consumers.

"The Office of Energy has engaged a consultant to undertake detailed economic modelling to assist with the review," said Mr Banks.

"This economic modelling is expected to be completed in April 2008, and will inform Government on the magnitude of any necessary increases for gas retail tariffs."

The next round of public consultation will involve consultation on a draft recommendations paper to be released for a four week consultation period in April 2008. The Office of Energy will complete the review and prepare a report with its recommendations for the consideration of the Minister for Energy, the Hon Francis Logan, in May 2008.

The Issues Paper is available from the Office of Energy's website at:  
<http://www.energy.wa.gov.au> or by phoning (08) 9420 5600.

Electronic submissions are preferred. Submissions are to be sent to the Office of Energy via email to [Gas.Tariffs.Review@energy.wa.gov.au](mailto:Gas.Tariffs.Review@energy.wa.gov.au) by **5pm on Friday, 14 March 2008**.

All submissions will be treated as public documents and will be made available on the Office of Energy website at [www.energy.wa.gov.au](http://www.energy.wa.gov.au). If any aspect of the submission is considered confidential, those areas should be clearly identified and the reasons for a claim of confidentiality noted in a covering letter.

**ENDS**