

# Industry Panel

MS MARY ANNE HARTLEY Q.C.

MS SALLY FARRIER

MS CLAIRE THOMAS PSM

Andrew Barr MLA  
Treasurer  
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Treasurer

## **Industry Panel Review of the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission's Price Direction for Regulated Water and Sewerage Services July 2013 – June 2019**

I am writing to update you on progress of the Industry Panel's review of the price direction made by the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) for regulated water and sewerage services for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2019 (the original price direction).

### **The Panel's proposed approach to the review**

The enclosed Approach Paper, which the Panel will place on its public website (<http://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/industrypanel>), provides an overview of the Panel's intended approach to the review.

The Panel is cognisant of the need to resolve the matter of ACTEW's prices for water and sewerage services expeditiously. However, an important objective for the Panel is that the pricing direction it ultimately decides to adopt is robust and will stand up to scrutiny, and so it will have regard to accepted, well-tested regulatory techniques.

### **The directions hearing**

As outlined in the Approach Paper, the Panel intends to convene a directions hearing of the parties to the review on the morning of **Friday, 25 July 2014** in Canberra (at a venue and time to be advised). At this directions hearing, the Panel will consider and make directions in respect of:

- the date for the filing of a 'Statements of Facts and Contentions' by ACTEW Corporation Limited (ACTEW);
- the filing and format of submissions by other review participants; and
- any other procedural directions as the Panel considers appropriate.

The directions hearing will also cover topics such as the documents and information that the Panel will be taking into account during its investigation and procedural matters, including the procedures for the filing of materials to the Panel, and procedures for confidentiality.

#### INDUSTRY PANEL

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**Feedback sought from review parties**

The Panel has sent the Approach Paper to ACTEW and those persons who have previously notified the ICRC of their intention to appear as a party in the review, and has notified them of the directions hearing. At the directions hearing, parties will also have an opportunity to provide feedback on the Panel's proposed approach to the review (as outlined in the enclosed Approach Paper). The feedback sought is in response to the procedural aspects of the review set out in the Approach Paper.

In your capacity as referring authority, the Panel would welcome any feedback you have. The Panel would request though that any feedback be provided in writing by no later than **18 July 2014** so that it can be considered ahead of the directions hearing. Only parties submitting written feedback by this date may be heard by the Panel at the directions hearing, in order to ensure its efficient running. The Panel intends to place all written submissions on its website in due course.

Consistent with the Industry Panel's charter commitment to be open and transparent, the copies of all relevant letters sent to ACTEW and other review participants will be posted on the Panel's website. A copy of the Panel's charter is included in the Approach Paper.

**Further information**

If you have any questions in relation to the matters raised in this letter or the enclosed Approach Paper, please contact the Panel's secretariat on tel: (02) 6207 6128 or email: [industrypanel@act.gov.au](mailto:industrypanel@act.gov.au). Any written feedback can be emailed to this address, or posted to:

Industry Panel  
GPO Box 158  
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The Panel looks forward to working cooperatively with all parties as it embarks on its review.

Yours faithfully



**Mary Anne Hartley QC**  
President of the Industry Panel

3 July 2014