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Re: Improving access to, and operation of, the Pilbara electricity network – The North West Interconnected System Issues Paper (issues paper)

The Pilbara Development Commission (Commission) is pleased to see the 'issues paper' released as a positive step to drive reform in the Pilbara, that will potentially have real benefit to the region, its communities and businesses. The issues paper is looking to deliver increased efficiency for the electricity industry and as this should result in reduced costs to consumers, and increased access to the grid to new users and producer. The Commission supports the focus on regulatory reform for the electricity industry in the region.

The emergence of new businesses in the Pilbara looking to invest in large scale renewable energy projects is an exciting opportunity for the region. The region is recognised by the International Energy Council as being one of the top places on the globe to develop a large solar based export industry. To facilitate and support this opportunity the Commission considers the current proposal should be expanded to include the complete grid to link up all of the electricity distribution and generation assets in the region. If this is achieved will lower electricity prices, lower capital costs for energy in new projects future for economic development opportunities in the region will be accelerated.

Your sincerely



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