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Contact: Kei Sukmadjaja [REDACTED]

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Sarah Woenne
Assistant Director, Customer Supply
Energy Policy WA
Perth WA 6000

By email: EPWA-Submissions@dmirs.wa.gov.au

Dear Sarah

Western Power response to proposed licence exemptions for the construction of electricity distribution systems by third party developers

Western Power welcomes the opportunity to respond to Energy Policy WA (EPWA) on the *Proposed licence exemptions for the construction of electricity and gas distribution systems by third party developers Consultation Paper (Consultation Paper)*. Western Power is generally supportive of the proposal set out in the Consultation Paper. Please note that Western Power has only considered the electricity distribution system in this response.

As the Consultation Paper notes, Western Power understands the licence exemption would in essence reflect current practices. Hence, Western Power generally supports the granting of a licence exemption to third party developers that construct electricity distribution systems at land subdivisions, subject to them entering into a prior agreement with Western Power concerning the design, operations and handover requirements (or another holder of a distribution licence) and that following construction of the distribution system, transferring or gifting the distribution system to Western Power (or another holder of a distribution licence).

However, Western Power's support to the proposal is subject to the following:

- (a) That the construction of electricity distribution systems by third party developers will be subject to the approvals under the WA Planning Commission (WAPC) process and align with the requirements under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*.
- (b) That in its review of the *Electricity (Network Safety) Regulations 2015 (Network Safety Regulations)* and *Electricity (Licensing) Regulations 1991 (Licensing Regulations)* and the oversight role of the Director of Energy Safety consider the public safety and network risks that arises when a third party developer (and its contractors) are in the process of constructing an electricity distribution system.



363 Wellington Street Perth 6000

GPO Box L921 Perth WA 6842

westernpower.com.au



† 13 10 87

f (08) 9225 2660

TTY 1800 13 13 51

TIS 13 14 50

Electricity Networks Corporation
ABN: 18 540 492 861

For example:

- (i) whether the Licensing Regulations should subject third party developers (and its contractors) constructing electricity distribution systems with the same level of certification and permit requirements as is required for other types of electrical work.
- (ii) Whether the requirements under the Network Safety Regulations may be inadequate for the case where third party developers (and its contractors) are working at the interface between subdivisions and the Western Power network. In particular, whether third party developers (and its contractors) installing assets in the vicinity of live Western Power assets such as underground cables are subjected to the same level of certification and permit requirements imposed on Western Power employees and contractors.

Please note that the above risks would arise prior to third party developers completing the electricity distribution systems and the completion of the approvals process undertaken by the WAPC.

Should you have any queries regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact Kei Sukmadjaja.

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Yours sincerely

Zahra Jabiri

Head of Regulation and Investment Assurance