

PUBLIC NOTICE

INQUIRY INTO WATER AND WASTEWATER PRICING PROCESSES

The Treasurer has referred an Inquiry to the Essential Services Commission of SA (the Commission), under Part 7 of the Essential Services Commission Act 2002 (the Act), in the following terms:

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) The Commission is to inquire into the processes undertaken in the preparation of advice to Cabinet, resulting in Cabinet making its decision on the level and structure of SA Water's water and wastewater prices in metropolitan and regional South Australia for 2006-07, with respect to the adequacy of the application of 1994 CoAG pricing principles;
- (b) In undertaking this inquiry, the Commission is to consider the "Transparency Statement Metropolitan and Regional Water and Wastewater Prices in South Australia 2006-07 (Part A)" dated August 2005;
- (c) In considering the processes undertaken for the preparation of advice to Cabinet, the Commission is to advise on the extent to which information relevant to the 1994 CoAG principles was made available to Cabinet.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INQUIRY:

- (a) The Commission is required to undertake its inquiry and submit a Draft Report to both the Treasurer and the Minister for Administrative Services by no later than 31 October 2005;
- (b) The Commission is required to submit a Final Report on the Inquiry to both the Treasurer and the Minister for Administrative Services by no later than 30 November 2005;
- (c) In conducting the inquiry, the Commission is not required to hold public hearings, public seminars or workshops but may receive and consider any written submissions as it thinks appropriate and it must advertise to call for written submissions to be lodged no later than 14 days from the date of publication of the Notice of Inquiry as required pursuant to section 36 of the Act.

DIRECTIONS:

The Commission has been directed that in undertaking its inquiry the Commission must preserve the confidentiality of any information, material or documentation provided by Government to enable the Commission to undertake its enquiry and stamped "Strictly Confidential".

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

The *Transparency Statement Water and Wastewater Prices in Metropolitan and Regional South Australia 2006-07* is available from the Commission's website at www.escosa.sa.gov.au.

Interested parties are invited to make written submissions. Submissions should address the Terms of Reference and where possible, should contain relevant data, documentation and explanation to support the views expressed.

Anyone can make a submission. Written submissions are due Friday, 30 September 2005.

Please send written submissions to the Commission via mail or electronically to:

Essential Services Commission of SA
GPO Box 2605
ADELAIDE SA 5001
E-mail: escosa@escosa.sa.gov.au
Fax: (08) 8463 4449

All submissions received may be made publicly available via the Commission website except where a particular submission or part of a submission contains information provided on a confidential basis and about which notification has been given.