



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Role title:	Principal Economist	Position number:	ERA21011
Status:	Permanent	Classification:	Level 7
Division:	Energy Markets	Effective date:	November 2025
Team area:	Strategy & Innovation		

Conditions of employment are in accordance with the current *Public Sector CSA General Agreement* and the *Public Service Award 1992*.

Reporting Relationships

Number of Positions Supervised Nil

Supervisor

Position number: ERA21752
Position title: Assistant Director
Classification/Level : Level 8

Organisational Context

The ERA is the independent economic regulator of electricity, gas, water, and rail in Western Australia.

Our purpose is to benefit all Western Australians by promoting strong economic outcomes through effective regulation and decision making. We strive to make sure current and future consumers pay no more than necessary for safe and reliable utilities.

The Energy Markets division carries out the regulatory functions for the market, which include monitoring whether the market is operating effectively, monitoring and enforcing compliance with the WEM Rules, and reviewing and approving market parameters.

We are one of two regulatory divisions at the ERA; the other being Regulation.

How we work is just as important to us as what we do. Our people have integrity, strive for excellence, and build trust.

Position Summary

The primary responsibility of this position is to provide expert economic analysis and strategic guidance on energy market issues, modelling and regulatory frameworks, ensuring that the ERA's decisions align with market objectives and regulatory best practice.

Working collaboratively with multidisciplinary analysts across the Energy Markets Division, you will lead and/or contribute to a range of strategic projects, such as:

- Assessing the effectiveness of market mechanisms in meeting the market objectives, promoting competition and mitigating the exercise market power.
- Providing regulatory guidance to industry on general trading obligations and constructing bids into the market, including periodic updates of the ERA's public guidance.
- Conducting research into emerging issues, such as changing technologies, government policy and market design, to understand the implications for the effective regulation of the WEM.
- Prepare evidence-based recommendations to progress changes to the market rules, procedures or guidelines.
- Providing strategic input into the development of effective market monitoring models and quantitative tools to identify and investigate non-compliant behaviour in the market.

You will also have the opportunity to mentor other economists and analysts in the Division.

Position Activities

Strategic Role

- Provides input to influencing strategic discussions and decision making on rules governing the energy markets.
- Is a key contributor in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of strategic activities in line with the ERA's Strategic Plan.
- Leads and/or provides expertise to the planning, development and implementation of rule changes and guidance to market participants, to improve the effectiveness of the WEM.
- Anticipates, analyses and manages emerging issues related to the effective regulation of the WEM.
- Develops innovative solutions to complex economic problems.

Management Role

- Supports the Assistant Director by:
 - providing leadership in activities to ensure the achievement of team outcomes.

- providing expert, specialist advice and assistance on issues related to the functions and management of the Division.
- mentoring junior staff, including reviewing and assuring the quality of outputs.
- Manages and has responsibility for the delivery of complex projects and business as usual activities requiring high level technical expertise and knowledge.
- Initiates and manages own workload and is a key contributor to setting strategic direction for the Division's work.
- Coaches and mentors other team members, including leading discrete project teams comprised of a multidisciplinary team of analysts.
- Engages, coordinates and manages the activities of external consultants and contractors.

Operational Role

- Provides specialist economic expertise in the management, undertaking, review and evaluation of complex and sensitive research and analysis.
- Manages and conducts complex reviews of legislation, policy and economic issues.
- Prepares high-quality, evidence-based recommendations to inform the decision making process.
- Develops or contributes to the development of rule changes for WA's energy markets.
- Provides, and/or coordinates the provision of briefing and position papers on technical matters for a range of audiences.
- Interrogates complex regulatory information and models, applies relevant analytical frameworks to determine the validity of the information and find relevant solutions.
- Maintains awareness of energy market developments and trends that may assist with the functions of the Energy Markets Division.

Communication Role

- Communicates:
 - across a wide range of energy market topics, ideas and information both in written and oral formats.
 - to obtain information, provide advice and liaise, influence and negotiate on complex and sensitive projects/issues.
 - Complex technical information on specialist energy market matters to internal and external stakeholders.
- Acts as a primary internal and external contact for other ERA divisions as well as industry and government stakeholders on complex, sensitive, high value matters relating to the WA energy markets.
- Leads and manages public consultation processes as required for industry, Government, representative bodies and other stakeholders.

- Develops and maintains high level and strategic relationships and networks with key stakeholders on behalf of the ERA.
- Leads negotiations with internal and external stakeholders and secures agreement/consensus within the group.
- Represents the ERA at various interagency, state and national forums and meetings with senior industry representatives and stakeholders; and on appropriate committees and working parties on complex and strategic issues.

Governance / Accountabilities

- Actively promotes and models behaviour demonstrating compliance with public sector legislative requirements and departmental policies, procedures, including exercising given delegations. In this regard particular attention is given to the application of;
 - The guidelines and principles of the Western Australian Public Sector Code Of Ethics and the ERA's Code of Conduct within a framework of high ethical standards and behaviours.
 - Appropriate Work Health and Safety and Equal Opportunity legislation and plans, policies, standards and practices.
- Challenges important issues constructively, stands by own position and supports others when required. Acknowledges mistakes and learns from them, and seeks guidance and advice when required.

Other

- Other duties as required.

Position Competencies

Essential:

- Tertiary qualifications in a relevant discipline such as energy economics.
- **Substantial** skills, knowledge and experience in:
 - Application and analysis of microeconomic theory and concepts to complex markets, regulation or policy issues.
 - Report writing and verbal communication skills to communicate complex information to diverse stakeholders.
 - Building and enhancing high level, strategic stakeholder relationships and negotiating and facilitating strategic discussions.
 - Leading and managing complex projects with tight timeframes and competing priorities, demonstrating a high level of project management skills.

Desirable:

- Knowledge or demonstrated capacity to acquire knowledge of, Western Australia's complex energy markets, including their regulatory frameworks, market design and operational dynamics.

- Knowledge of or experience with linear programming or optimisation modelling.

Appointment Conditions

Location:	Perth
Accommodation	NA
Allowances / Conditions	Special NA
Specialised Operated	Equipment NA
Systems Used	Oracle, Fusion 5 HRMIS, Microfocus Content Manager, Convene / Diligent meeting software

Certification

The details contained in this document are an accurate statement of the duties, responsibilities and other requirements of the job.

Executive Director

Rajat Sarawat

.../.../...