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URA consults on new pre-payment meter scheme

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) has published a revised draft decision for a new pre-payment meter scheme for electricity customers in Port Vila. This new scheme will give domestic customers the option to switch to a pre-payment meter if they wish.

Romney Marum, Project Manager at the URA, said “We have worked hard with UNELCO over the last few months to ensure the proposed system is safe, fair and good value for electricity customers.” The recent consultation process has involved weekly meetings of a joint URA-UNELCO working group.

The URA will now hold several public consultation meetings around Port Vila from 15-20 June 2013. Mr Marum said, “We now want to hear what customers think. There are some aspects of the proposal that are quite complex – it is not a perfect system”.

The public meetings will be held in Eratap, Pango, Teoumaville, Mele, Erakor, Freswota, Blacksands as well as at the Seafront stage. Any customers interested in the new pre-payment scheme are invited to come to learn more about the system and to give their feedback.

Mr Marum said, “All the feedback and information we receive at the meetings will help us arrive at our final decision on the new system. We urge anyone who is interested to come to one of the meetings to share their views.”

Full details of the public briefings are available from the URA on 23335, www.ura.gov.vu or in their office on the ground floor of the VNPF building.

About the Utilities Regulatory Authority

The URA was set up under the Utilities Regulatory Authority Act No. 11 of 2007. The Authority acts independently of the Government and its primary purpose is to increase access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity and water services, and to protect the long-term interests of consumers throughout Vanuatu. In the electricity sector, the Authority monitors the concessions operated by UNELCO in Malekula, Port Vila and Tanna; and Vanuatu Utilities and Infrastructure Ltd (VUI) in Luganville. In addition, the Authority manages consumer disputes and advises the

Government on matters related to electricity and water. It also reviews tariffs under the rules of the Concessions Agreements and relevant legislation.

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