

HORIZON POWER, VERVE ENERGY, SYNERGY AND WESTERN POWER —  
BUILDING PROTECTION ZONES

**920. Hon HELEN BULLOCK to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to Premier's Circular 2012-02.

- (1) Have building protection zones been established around the critical assets in high bushfire-risk areas for Horizon Power, Verve Energy, Synergy and Western Power?
- (2) If no to (1), why not?
- (3) If yes to (1), has any agency failed to improve existing building protection zones as recommended in the Premier's circular?
- (4) If yes to (3), why have no improvements been made?

**Hon PETER COLLIER replied:**

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question. In relation to Synergy —

- (1) No.
- (2) Synergy's office is located in the central business district of Perth, on Adelaide Terrace, which is not a high bushfire-risk area.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

In relation to Western Power —

- (1) No.
- (2) Western Power ensures clearances around its poles, wires and other assets in accordance with the requirements of EnergySafety. Western Power also establishes firebreaks near its assets according to the requirements of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority. Because of physical space restrictions in some areas—for example residential areas—Western Power cannot provide a 20-metre protection zone for all of its assets. This is particularly the case when Western Power does not own the adjacent land.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

In relation to Horizon Power —

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) No.
- (4) Not applicable.

In relation to Verve Energy —

- (1) Each of Verve Energy's power stations has its own extensive bushfire mitigation strategy. The organisation is currently reviewing each of these strategies against the recommendations in Premier's Circular 2012-02.
- (2)-(4) Please refer to answer (1).