



## Ministerial Media Statements

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Hon Mike Nahan BEd MS PhD  
MLA

### **New board announced to continue reform in State's energy sector**

*Tuesday, 2 July 2013*

- **Government announces new board of directors for WA's State-owned electricity generator Verve and retailer Synergy**
- **Synergy chairman Michael Smith will head newly merged entity**

The State Government has announced that Michael Smith has been appointed chairman of the new board to oversee the merger of electricity generator Verve and energy retailer Synergy.

Energy Minister Mike Nahan said Mr Smith would lead a six-member board that would oversee the merger between Verve and Synergy.

The two State-owned utilities will trade as a single entity from January 1, 2014.

Dr Nahan said Mr Smith is a respected business leader in the Western Australian community and had been an outstanding chairman for Synergy over the past seven years.

"Apart from serving as chairman of Synergy, Michael is also chairman of iiNet, recently became the first West Australian appointed as chairman of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and also successfully served as West Coast Eagles chairman," he said.

"His leadership will guide the merger of Verve and Synergy."

The merger of Verve and Synergy, announced earlier this year, will improve efficiencies in electricity production in Western Australia and help create a market that delivers cost-effective, reliable and safe energy.

Eric Hooper will serve as deputy chair of the new board. The other board members are Professor Margaret Seares, Mark Chatfield, Michael Goddard and Keith Spence.

"This board brings together a great balance of experience, knowledge of the energy sector and enthusiasm for the challenges that lie ahead," the Minister said.

Synergy's billing system will not change as a result of the merger with Verve.

#### **Fact File**

- **Legislative changes will now be developed to integrate Synergy and Verve Energy into a single government trading entity to take effect from January 1, 2014**

Minister's office - 6552 5700