

## Global news

### World's first PV energy storage system goes on sale

Global solar power provider Tenesol, has launched the world's first photovoltaic (PV) energy conversion and storage solution. The 'Sun Smart+' system technology will enable solar power to be 'time shifted', allowing grid connected systems to self-consume the energy they produce as well as feeding some power into the electricity grid.

(source: [globalsolartechnology.com](http://globalsolartechnology.com) 13 Sep)

### Empire State of green

New York City's iconic Empire State Building, which has been undergoing a \$550 million green refurbishment, was awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification. The retrofit will save \$4.4 million in energy costs annually paying back the cost of the implementation of the energy efficiency measures in three years.

(source: [energyefficiencynews.com](http://energyefficiencynews.com) 20 Sep)

### \$1.3 billion wind project for SA

Yorke Peninsula in South Australia is set to become the location for one of the world's largest wind energy projects. The \$1.3 billion, 600 MW project will comprise 180 turbines, and has the potential to generate enough electricity to power more than 200,000 homes annually. If approved the project is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

(source: [ecogeneration.com.au](http://ecogeneration.com.au) 12 Sep)

## Local governments invited to install underground power

Local governments have the opportunity to apply to install underground power in their community.

Hon Peter Collier MLC, Minister for Energy said the partnership – between the State Government, Western Power, Horizon Power and participating local governments – would share the costs of replacing existing overhead powerlines.

"The Government provides 50 per cent of each project's cost, to a maximum of \$500,000," he said.

"Improved public safety and visual amenity are among the many benefits of underground power."

The program has invested more than \$282 million to provide underground power in 100 project areas.

"This has given more than 76,000 customers a more reliable electricity supply through underground power systems," said Minister Collier.

Proposals can be submitted to the Office of Energy by 5pm, 18 November 2011.

Project guidelines are available from the Office of Energy website at [energy.wa.gov.au](http://energy.wa.gov.au).

All local government enquiries should be directed to the State Underground Power Program executive officer on 9420 5752.



## People

### Phil Southwell, General Manager Regulation & Sustainability

Phil joined State Energy Commission in 1973 and was appointed a general manager in 2006. His division has responsibility for regulation and pricing, the development of the Access Arrangement and sustainability. Phil has a Bachelor of Engineering and a Graduate Diploma in Management. In August 2008, he took over as Chair of CIGRE (the International Council on Large Electric Systems) Study Committee C1.

### Andre Winarto, Group Manager, Distribution (Operations)

Andre has been leading the Distribution Group for three years. His group is responsible for the operational delivery of the distribution asset driven work program, from annual planning through to construction. He has worked in Australia, the US and UK at a number of multinationals, including Singtel Optus, Akzo Nobel and Shell.

### Joanne Wheeler, Branch Manager Corporate Communications

Joanne joined Western Power in 2007 bringing with her extensive experience in the communication and learning disciplines gained through international and national roles in the finance sector. She manages Western Power's marketing, education and communication functions including our corporate reputation, corporate publications and reports, major campaigns, online media and employee reward and recognition programs.



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## Events

**12 October 2011**

Western Power Annual Outlook Breakfast, The Hyatt Hotel Perth

**25 October 2011**

2011 Western Power Annual Planning Report launch, Mercure Hotel Perth

**2 - 4 November 2011**

Asia Smart Grid Conference, Singapore

**17 November**

Energy Efficiency Council National Conference, Melbourne

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This information is available in alternative formats and languages on request.



# EQ

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## Western Power's five year investment plan

World's latest technology offered in Perth

Western Power and the community - preparing for a safe summer

Local governments invited to install underground power



## Western Power and the community - preparing for a safe summer

Western Power encourages members of the community to join us in taking steps to prepare for, and stay safe during, the approaching summer months.

Managing Director Mr Doug Aberle said it is important that Western Power works with communities to prepare for and raise awareness of risks during the bushfire season.

“Western Power urges people to have a heightened sense of awareness during bushfire season and to work together to reduce risks,” he said.

“While there is always the risk that fire will be sparked by trees or animals contacting powerlines, or by lightning striking power poles, there are a number of simple steps that we can take to improve public safety.”

These steps include:

- encouraging property owners to ensure their trees are at least 2.5 metres clear of powerlines by 30 November to reduce the risk of fire
- advising residents to stay at a safe distance if they encounter fallen or damaged lines in their area, and immediately contact Western Power on 13 13 51
- urging people reliant on electric pumps for their water supplies to have alternatives available in case power supply is lost due to fire



**\$8.5 billion**

Western Power's proposed investment between 2012 - 2017

**164,000**

poles expected to be reinforced or replaced between 2012 - 2017



Western Power's Smart Grid team members pictured with the In Home Display unit

### World's latest technology offered in Perth

In a world first trial, a selection of Perth homes with solar panels are being offered the latest technology that shows how much they are importing or exporting from the electricity grid at any point in time.

Using a wireless home area network created by a 'smart' household electricity meter, homeowners will be able to use a portable display showing just how much electricity they are using, or sending into the grid at any given time.

Western Power and Synergy are currently conducting the trial involving 700 new generation In Home Displays (IHDs) as part of the Perth Solar City program - WA's largest energy efficiency initiative.

Perth Solar City Program Manager Mr Andrew Blaver said he believed the devices, which show your energy use in real time (in units as well as dollars and cents) would change people's energy use habits.

“This is a world leading technology that enables customers and the network to interact so they can get information when they want it about their use of energy,” he said.

“Currently householders receive a bill on average every 60 days which doesn't give them much opportunity to manage their electricity use.

“It's believed that access to live information, as provided by this technology, will allow householders to make smarter choices about their electricity use,” said Mr Blaver.

The technology is currently offered to homes in the Perth Solar City trial region within Perth's eastern suburbs.

### Switched on: Schools across WA get connected

Western Power's involvement in a nationwide project has seen more than 500 new schools across WA connect to the network.

Announced in February 2009, the Australian Government's \$16.2 billion *Building the Education Revolution* (BER) program aims to modernise schools through the delivery and maintenance of necessary infrastructure.

Western Power successfully completed a \$50 million program of work to deliver power upgrades to new buildings at 549 schools across the Western Power Network.

The work undertaken included the installation of:

- 89 kilometres of cable and conductor
- 294 transformers
- 175 ring main units

## Western Power's five year investment plan

Western Power recently lodged its five year investment plan to the Economic Regulation Authority (ERA).

The plan seeks to address public safety risks, meet forecast growth in the number of new customers and peak demand for electricity, improve network security and maintain current average service levels.

Western Power's Managing Director, Mr Doug Aberle said this is the beginning of an extensive process in which the ERA will closely scrutinise the proposal and will include opportunities for public comment.

“The regulatory process effectively provides strong incentives for Western Power to operate efficiently and provide quality service at a fair price,” Mr Aberle said.

“This investment plan recognises WA's growth and the need to upgrade the network to provide for new customers.

“WA has an old network and while it has supplied customers over many years it is reaching its capacity and needs new infrastructure to meet future needs.

“Substantial investment will be

directed towards replacing poles and wires to improve safety levels.”

The five year investment plan is part of a longer 20 year plan to bring the network into shape and includes a capital expenditure program of \$5.8 billion and operating expenditure of \$2.7 billion over five years commencing 1 July 2012.

The ERA will review the proposal ensuring that:

- there is a demonstrable need for the investment proposed by Western Power
- all non-network solutions have been considered
- the investment proposed will achieve the stated objectives
- it will be undertaken at an efficient cost

The cost of running the network makes up approximately 40 per cent of the electricity tariff.

The overall tariff will be determined by Government once the ERA has sought public comment and completed its analysis of Western Power's submission, in approximately nine months time.



Western Power Managing Director Mr Doug Aberle announces the investment plan at a stakeholder forum in September

### Investment highlights 2012 - 2017

- 130,000 new customer connections
- Replace or reinforce 164,000 wood poles across the network
- Address high risk public safety issues – powerline failures, mitigating bush fires and replacing service lines connecting homes and businesses to the network
- Maintain average reliability standards with some targeted improvement where it is required and efficient to do so

**130,000**

new connections expected between 2012 - 2017

