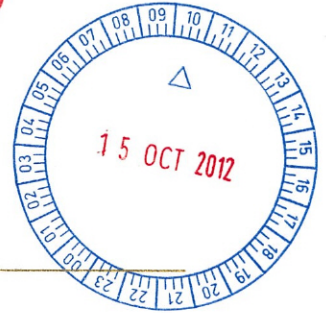




PUBLIC

22/10/12



**Hon Peter Collier MLC
Minister for Education; Energy; Indigenous Affairs**

Your ref: A370618
Our ref: 34-21547

Ms Giz Watson MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Ms Watson 

Thank you for correspondence dated 20 September 2012 in relation to Synergy's request for information provided in response to supplementary questions to be considered as private evidence.

C4 – Board Minute

I have been advised by Synergy that it is considered normal commercial practice to not publish board minutes, as they include deliberations of a board. While board decisions are often made public, the deliberations leading up to them are not. To enable board members to speak with absolute candour and openness, it is important to ensure that such open discussion does not become public. If a board member thought his or her words would become public knowledge, it would stifle debate and substantially diminish the quality of discussion.

While the extract of the board minute includes some public information, Synergy has requested that the board minute be considered as private evidence according to the above principle.

C6 – Hospitality provided at Synergy corporate box

Synergy has concerns that placing this information on the public record could be considered a breach of its obligations to the attendees to protect their personal information and use that information only for the purpose of facilitating attendance at a particular function.

Synergy notes it did not advise attendees of the potential for the details of their attendance to be placed on the public record. Synergy considers that the information is potentially covered by privacy legislation as the public disclosure of the information may adversely impact the affected persons.

I trust this information provides clarification of Synergy's request for this information to be considered private evidence.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Collier', written in a cursive style.

Hon Peter Collier MLC
MINISTER FOR ENERGY

12 OCT 2012