

**Media statement – for immediate release
6.30am, Saturday 14 September 2013**

Efforts to restore power continue

Electricity remains out to 4,000 Orion customers this morning after 2,000 customers had power restored yesterday evening. Of the original 28,000 customers that lost electricity supply on Tuesday night, due to the gale force winds, 85% have now had power restored.

The areas without power are predominantly in the rural region west of Christchurch, while some smaller areas within Christchurch city are also affected.

“We are continuing to move in an east to west direction to restore supply to affected customers. Our priority remains to reconnect the areas with the most customers first. We are also continuing to work with Selwyn District Council to prioritise water supplies,” says Orion Chief Executive Rob Jamieson.

“Many lines remain damaged and as we work through our network repair we are continuing to uncover new damage. As a result some customers will unfortunately be without power for a few more days. We now hope that we can get power back onto all customers by Tuesday,” continues Mr Jamieson.

“Contractors from Marlborough, Wellington and the West Coast are giving us additional support and more contractors from other areas are arriving. This is helping and we are thankful for their support. We are also thankful to customers for their patience during what is a difficult and frustrating time without power”.

All available crews are working to restore power as quickly and safely as they can. To avoid the possibility of electrocution of those working on the lines we ask that anyone installing a generator have this undertaken by a registered electrician. An incorrectly installed generator may send power back into the electrical network while it is being worked on by a linesman resulting in electrocution.

If you see a fallen power line, or a tree on a power line, please stay well clear and call us on 0800 363 9898. Also, we appeal for people not to try and remove trees and branches from power lines. Please leave any works near electricity lines to our staff and contractors.

Our next update will be at 4.30pm.

Attached is a map showing our network separated into four areas and our expected timeframes for restoring power to those still without power in each of those areas. This is a guide only.

ENDS