

Media statement – for immediate release

4.00pm, Wed 18 Sept 2013 - next update at 11.30am tomorrow

Number without power declines

Over the last 24 hours a further 500 Orion customers have had their power restored, following last week's destructive wind storm. This means that of the original 28,000 that lost power in the storm, 500 now remain without electricity. These remaining customers are dispersed around the rural region.

"It is a time consuming process getting power back on to the remaining customers as the repairs we are doing now affect only a few customers at a time. However, we are making good steady progress and I can assure all customers that remain without power that we are working as quickly and safely as possible," said Orion Chief Operating Officer John O'Donnell.

"More contractors from throughout the South Island have arrived today and some more arrive tomorrow. This adds even more resource to our efforts which already includes many contractors brought in from around New Zealand," continues Mr O'Donnell.

"For those customers without power it is a difficult and frustrating time and I thank these people for their continued patience. Their understanding of how much damage has occurred from the storm is greatly appreciated as it allows us to concentrate on getting on with repairs."

We ask any residents using generators to get them installed by registered electricians to ensure the safety of the linesmen repairing the network.

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.

Our next update will be at 11.30am tomorrow.

ENDS