

**Media statement – for immediate release
6.30am, Thursday 12 September 2013**

Progress to restore power continues this morning

Power remains out to 11,000 Orion customers this morning after strong winds on Tuesday night affected power supply across Orion's electricity distribution network.

The areas without power are predominantly in the rural region west of Christchurch.

"Our crews are already out working and we hope to continue to make good progress today in restoring power," says Orion Chief Executive Rob Jamieson.

"Overnight we managed to restore power to another 4,000 customers. Our staff and contractors did a great job yesterday in restoring power to 60% of the 28,000 customers who lost power Tuesday night," continues Mr Jamieson.

"Our crews are working as quickly as they safely can. It is possible that some customers could be without power for up to four more days. However, until access allows us to determine the full extent of the repairs required we are unable to give more precise details on this."

If you see a fallen power line, or a tree on a power line, please stay well clear and call us immediately on 0800 363 9898.

Our next update will be at 11.30am.

ENDS