

**Media statement – for immediate release
4.00pm, Saturday 14 September 2013**

90% of customers now have power restored

Electricity remains out to 3,000 Orion customers this afternoon, mostly in the rural community west of Christchurch. Of the original 28,000 customers that lost electricity supply on Tuesday night, due to the gale force winds, 90% have now had power restored.

“In the last 24 hours we have made excellent progress and managed to put the power back onto 3,000 customers. It will take a few more days, probably until Tuesday, to restore supply to the 3,000 remaining customers without power, as we are now getting down to individual repairs that affect fewer customers at a time,” says Orion Chief Executive Rob Jamieson.

“Contractors from throughout the South Island and Wellington are assisting us. We are thankful for their support. We also appreciate the help and support of our community over the last few days and wish to acknowledge the patience of those affected by the power outages during what is a difficult and frustrating time,” continues Mr Jamieson.

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. Please leave any works near electricity lines to our staff and contractors.

Unless there are significant developments overnight, our next update will be at 11.30am.

ENDS