

## **Media update – for immediate release**

### **Efforts to restore power hampered by ongoing storm**

**1.30pm, 5 March 2014**

- 4,000 customers are presently without power.
- We are unable to give a timescale on when power will be restored to customers given this is an ongoing storm event. It is likely that a few thousand customers will be without power overnight tonight. Many customers may face some days without power. We ask people to prepare accordingly.
- Currently, rainfall and flooding is more of an issue than the continuing winds.
- Flooding, slips, water logged ground and the many road closures affecting the region, are preventing access to our network. This includes many parts of our network in Banks Peninsula. This means our crews are unable to access areas to undertake repairs. In areas where access is possible, all available crews are working to restore power as quickly and as safely as they can.
- It remains that the majority of customers without power are around Banks Peninsula, with most of the peninsula affected. Some pockets of Christchurch and surrounding areas are also experiencing outages.
- Floodwaters have resulted in us cutting supply to two kiosks on our network. This was for safety reasons and to limit damage to these assets. We switched load from others parts of our network to affected areas, in order to minimise outages.
- Continued rain may mean that more substations and kiosks, particularly those around the Avon and Heathcote rivers, may need supply turned off to them later today. This may result in some outages.
- Anyone who sees a fallen power line should stay well clear and call us on 0800 363 9898 immediately.

**Our next media release will be at 4pm today. Our 4pm release will be our last statement to the media today. An update on the number of customers without power will be placed on [www.oriongroup.co.nz](http://www.oriongroup.co.nz) at 8.00pm tonight and 7.30am tomorrow morning.**

**ENDS**

**About Orion:**

Orion New Zealand Limited:

- owns and operates the electricity distribution network in central Canterbury between the Waimakariri and Rakaia rivers
- distributes electricity to more than 190,000 homes and businesses
- is owned by the Christchurch City Council (89.3%) and the Selwyn District Council (10.7%).