

Media statement – for immediate release
11.30am – Thursday, 7 June 2012

Good progress to restore power

Orion crews continue to make good progress to restore power to areas of Christchurch and central Canterbury affected by snow.

Approximately 1,700 customers were without power early this morning – that number has now halved. The areas still affected include small pockets in the Harewood, Weedons, West Melton, Hororata, Kimberley and Annat areas.

“Repair crews have been at work from first light to get the power back on,” says Orion Chief Executive Rob Jamieson.

“We hope to restore power across our network by the end of today if the weather holds and our crews can safely access all areas. Large amounts of snow mean it’s difficult for our teams to reach some parts of the network.”

Please stay clear of fallen power lines and treat them as live at all times. To report lines down call Orion on 03 363 9898.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Orion Media Phone: 0275 055 761

Further information:

- The Orion website gives details of current power outages, including areas affected and estimates for power restoration – see www.oriongroup.co.nz/outages.aspx.
- Orion also uses Twitter to send updates about the power supply situation in Christchurch and central Canterbury – see www.twitter.com/OrionNZ.

Note:

Orion New Zealand Limited owns and operates the electricity network in Christchurch and central Canterbury. Our network covers 8,000km² between the Rakaia and Waimakariri rivers and from the Canterbury coast to Arthur’s Pass. We deliver electricity to more than 190,000 homes and businesses across this diverse geographic area.

There are 29 electricity distribution companies in New Zealand. Orion’s neighbours are MainPower New Zealand Limited (north of the Waimakariri River), Electricity Ashburton Limited (south of the Rakaia River) and Westpower Limited (west of Arthur’s Pass).

