

**Media statement – for immediate release**  
**4.00pm – Friday, 8 June 2012**

## **Orion network gets back to normal after snow**

Fewer than 50 Orion customers are currently without power and this number is expected to reduce to less than 10 by nightfall.

Almost all of the customers still affected by snow are in rural areas west of Christchurch.

“The support and understanding of our community has been greatly appreciated over the past few days,” says Orion Chief Executive Rob Jamieson.

“I’d particularly like to thank those people who made life that little bit easier for our staff and contractors who were out in the snow restoring power to our customers. Whether it was clearing snow or supplying cups of tea, their help was appreciated.

“I’d also like to thank our people and contractors who worked up to 14 hour days in freezing conditions to remove snow-damaged trees from overhead lines and get the power back on.”

Orion expects that all customers affected by snow will have power tomorrow.

### **ENDS**

#### **For more information please contact:**

**Rob Jamieson:** 0274 324 367

**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](http://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](http://www.twitter.com/OrionNZ).

#### **Note:**

Orion New Zealand Limited owns and operates the electricity network in Christchurch and central Canterbury. Our network covers 8,000km<sup>2</sup> 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).

