Media statement – for immediate release
7.00am – Friday, 8 June 2012

Power reconnection continues

There are fewer than 150 Orion customers currently without power.

Power came and went for between 100 and 300 customers overnight in the Orion network area in Christchurch and central Canterbury. Most power outages were caused by branches from snow damaged trees falling into power lines.

Most of the affected customers are in the rural area west of Christchurch, including in parts of Castle Hill and Kimberley.

"We know how difficult it is to be without power in these conditions, and we have teams working to restore power and we're working as quickly as we can to get power back to everyone," says Orion Chief Executive Rob Jamieson.

"Access difficulties are hampering efforts, especially in the Castle Hill area. Damage from trees falling into lines has been significant, which means repairs can take a long time."

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 8,000km^2 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).