



**Press Release**  
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## Upgrade of electricity supply for Mossburn Athol area

A major line project to improve electricity supply quality and security to northern Southland has just completed its second stage and is one step closer to completion.

After four months, stage two of The Power Company's Mossburn to Athol line upgrade was completed in early March by network manager PowerNet.

"The 14.5km upgrade from 11kV line to include an additional 66kV line will provide the region with an improved quality of electricity supply," said Murray Popenhagen, project manager.

The project will increase the networks load capability for the future growth in the district, he said. Through an engineering review, as part of The Power Companies Asset Management Plan, it was found that voltage quality improvements were required in the northern Southland region with irrigation now being utilised in areas such as Athol, Riversdale and Mossburn for an increase in land productivity.

Infrastructure specialist Delta was the successful tender of the second stage upgrade. Line Mechanics undertook sections of the upgrade using live line work to ensure that customers were not affected by power outages.

"It was important to us to keep as many customers connected to the network at all times" said Mr Popenhagen. The Delta workers came from both Dunedin and Central Otago.

Stage one was completed late last year. This upgrade consisted of 5km of line from the Mossburn zone substation through Mossburn and finishing across the Oreti River.

The remainder of this project is in the final planning stage by PowerNet. This includes the 15km Stage three line upgrade. In addition, construction of a new zone substation in the Athol area is also in final planning stages. The new substation will need to be connected before the Stage three of the line upgrade can be livened, Mr Popenhagen said.

The total project cost of the PowerNet project is in excess of \$5million and is part of The Power Company's 10 year Asset Management Plan.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact Jason Franklin, Chief Executive, PowerNet Limited on 027 214 5309**

