



Media Release

April 2016

INVERCARGILL CHARGES INTO THE FUTURE

INVERCARGILL'S FIRST FAST ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION OPENING

Invercargill's first public electric vehicle (EV) fast-charging station will be officially opened by Hon Sarah Dowie, MP for Invercargill, on Thursday (21 April).

A joint project between the electricity network management company PowerNet and Charge Net NZ, the installation of a public EV fast-charging station at 116 Esk Street is part of a trend where EVs are becoming an increasingly viable and attractive option for everyday road users. More New Zealand businesses are also making the shift to 100% electric or plug-in electric hybrids.

Whilst EVs can be charged at home or at a workplace, a reliable and fast public charging infrastructure is essential to growing New Zealand's electric fleet.

PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin says, "We manage significant network assets across Southland and Otago and we envisage some major changes taking place as more people transition from fossil fuel vehicles to electric. Two key elements of growth in electric vehicle uptake in New Zealand are the increase in fleet purchasing and growth in fast-charging infrastructure. PowerNet are supporting both elements."

Supplying the infrastructure for the fast charger, PowerNet (which delivers electricity to over 68,000 customers) are committed to promoting sustainable energy. PowerNet purchased a 100% electric Nissan Leaf late last year and are planning to add plug-in hybrid vehicles to their fleet. Their site at Racecourse Road also has a plug-in charging station to use for visitors and staff with EV vehicles.

Charge Net NZ, the operator of a nationwide electric vehicle charging network, is supplying the user-pays fast DC charger unit, which provides an 80% charge in 10 to 25 minutes. Electric vehicle drivers can access the fast charger network via an RFID

card, which drivers tap against the charging unit to activate it, or via a smart phone App.

Charge Net NZ CEO Steve West says, “Charge Net is determined to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles nationwide. Working in partnership with PowerNet with the installation of a fast charger makes EVs a viable option for more people living in, or passing through, Invercargill.”

PowerNet and Charge Net NZ have a cooperation agreement to explore future opportunities to install further EV fast-charging stations in the South.

The official opening of the public EV fast-charging station will take place at 116 Esk Street, Invercargill, at 4.30pm on Thursday 21 April.

Approximately 80% of New Zealand energy is generated from renewable sources, therefore electric vehicles driven on New Zealand roads have a significant impact on reduction in CO² compared to internal combustion engines. Transport is responsible for 44% of New Zealand’s carbon dioxide emissions and around 17% of our total greenhouse gas emissions. As at March 2016, there are currently 1,124 electric vehicles officially registered in New Zealand.

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For more information:

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About PowerNet (refer attached fact sheet)

PowerNet Limited manages electricity networks on behalf of its respective owners Electricity Invercargill Limited and The Power Company Limited who each hold a 50% shareholding in the company.

Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL) is owned by the ratepayers of the Invercargill City Council (ICC) and The Power Company Limited (TPC) is owned by the Southland

Electric Power Supply Consumer Trust (SEPSCT) which represents consumers connected to their network.

PowerNet also manages the assets of the OtagoNet Joint Venture (OJV) which is jointly owned by PowerNet's two shareholders Electricity Invercargill and The Power Company as well as a small embedded network at Frankton, known as Lakeland Network, near Queenstown that is owned by Electricity Southland (ESL).

PowerNet also provides a network control centre function to the Stewart Island Electrical Supply Authority (SIESA) and two field services staff are stationed on the Island.

About Charge Net NZ

Founded by Steve West, Charge Net NZ is an Auckland based company rolling out a nationwide network of 100 Fast DC Charging stations over a three year period. By delivering up to 50kW of DC power, their stations are able to charge an electric car 15 times faster than at home, typically taking 15-25 minutes.

Partnerships are essential for the rollout to be successful. To host the stations, Charge Net have partnered with retailers The Warehouse Group, Z Energy, and Foodstuffs. These forward thinking companies are active across the whole of New Zealand and are so able to provide many sites as the network expands.

The other major partners enabling this rollout are the lines companies, of which six have selected Charge Net as their provider: Northpower, Powerco, Wellington Electricity, Orion, Alpine Energy, and Powernet. These networks cover 37% of New Zealand, providing for accelerated deployment in those areas.

Charge Net believe a nationwide network of fast charging stations is necessary for the widespread uptake of EVs. The short charge time removes any worry that a driver will be caught short during the day, and enables road trips far beyond the 120km range of the most affordable EVs.