

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****MOSSBURN – ATHOL PROJECT BRINGS INCREASED CAPACITY AND RELIABILITY TO REGION**

The \$5 million Mossburn to Athol line and new Zone Substation project completes a two-year construction that will bring supply security and reliability to Northern Southland, PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin said today.

PowerNet manages the Power Company network as well as other electricity networks in the region.

The final stage of the Mossburn to Athol project, commissioning the new Athol substation and livening the new 66kV line, was completed in late April.

“The Mossburn to Athol works will add increased capacity and reliability to the Northern Southland area, which has seen an increase in dairying and irrigation,” Mr Franklin said.

The project involved a number of different engineering solutions, including live line work, installing the new substation, and putting in new poles and lines along the route for the 66kV line.

Stage one of the project, a five kilometre upgrade from the Mossburn Zone Substation through Mossburn and over the Oreti River, was completed in 2012. The 14 kilometre stage two from the Oreti River to Irthing Road at Five Rivers was completed in 2013.

“The Power Company is committed to ensuring our customers have capacity and security of supply, and our capital works programme – which was over \$19 million last year – contributes towards our company being one of the better performing predominantly rural networks in New Zealand,” Mr Franklin said.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT**

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