



Press Release
For immediate release
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Advanced Meters Installation Begins

The first of 60,000 advanced meters are set to be installed on electricity networks managed by PowerNet.

PowerNet project manager Paul McCullagh said after completing the required testing and systems installation, retail electricity companies were contacting Southland and West Otago consumers to arrange installation.

“The companies are starting off in Invercargill, and some consumers will have received letters advising them of the changeover,” he said.

“Every 15 years, we have to re-certify your electricity meter to ensure it meets Electricity Authority standards. This time, we are replacing our existing meters with new meters. This improved advanced metering system will make network and electricity supply management safer, more efficient, and more reliable in the future.”

Mr McCullagh said the three-year, \$24.5 million project was being co-ordinated between PowerNet and electricity retailers such as Contact, Genesis or Meridian.

“The installation across the Electricity Invercargill and The Power Company networks has been carefully planned. The process of changing meters should only take about 45 minutes,” he said.

In the future the new meters will allow consumers to monitor their electricity consumption. For PowerNet the new meters will provide more efficient management of the two electricity networks they manage. It will mean field staff can quickly and easily identify an outage and return power to consumers. It also allows the company to better manage electricity demand at times of high use and makes the networks more efficient, Mr McCullagh said.

Electricity consumers will receive letters from their retailer outlining the process as the rollout continues.

ENDS

Media contact: Paul McCullagh, 03 211 8899.

- *Photo attached*
- *PowerNet Fact Sheet attached*