



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **SPEY STREET SUBSTATION BRINGS SECURITY OF SUPPLY TO INVERCARGILL**

The commissioning of the new Spey Street substation on Thursday March 26 completes a massive project for Electricity Invercargill Limited (EIL), PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin says.

The substation is part of an overall \$12.2 million capital programme which included a new 33kV underground cable from the Invercargill grid exit point at Tuai Street to Spey Street. The decision to build the new Spey Street substation was made in 2012 when the existing Doon Street substation was confirmed as an unacceptable location risk should an earthquake affected the Invercargill Water Tower.

"Spey Street and the associated 33kV cable from Tuai St is not only the biggest project for EIL since we completed undergrounding overhead lines, it also gives greater security and reliability of electricity supply for Invercargill businesses and residents," Mr Franklin said.

The 33kV cable runs from the Transpower grid exit point in Tuai St, down Yarrow St, across Queens Drive, and into Spey St.

"Logistically, that was the most difficult part of this project," Mr Franklin said. "We have to thank all the residents and businesses along the 4km route for their understanding while we got the work done, and especially the upper Spey St residents for bearing with us while the substation was built."

Mr Franklin said the substation would also allow for future growth on the EIL network.

"The requirement to shift from Doon St meant we looked at the needs of our customers. At the same time, we have future-proofed and allowed for future growth through the new substation development at Spey Street," he said.

The Doon St substation will now be decommissioned and the site cleared during 2015, he said. All of the equipment on the Doon St site will be refurbished and re-used elsewhere on the EIL network.

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