

OtagoNet CONNECTIONS 2020

Keeping you in touch with **YOUR ELECTRICITY NETWORK**

About OtagoNet

OtagoNet is the major electricity network for most of rural Otago. We're owned by two lower South Island-based electricity lines companies, The Power Company Ltd (TPCL) and Electricity Invercargill Ltd (EIL).

Our network covers almost all of Otago: from Central Otago to Chaslands in Southland, and inland from the Blue Mountains in West Otago to Shag Point on Otago's east coast. OtagoNet owns the electricity network assets including power poles, power lines, underground power cables, transformers and substations. We contract PowerNet to manage, construct and maintain our network. Duncan Fea chairs OtagoNet's governing committee and Sarah Brown, Doug Fraser and Don Nicolson are committee members.

Continuing to improve the safety, reliability and security of electricity supply and provide the infrastructure that supports regional growth are key drivers for OtagoNet's work programmes.



OtagoNet stats at 31 March 2019

- Connected consumers **16,880**
- Network length **4,606 km**
- Consumer density (per km) **3.7 consumers/km**
- Number of distribution transformers **4,332**
- Maximum demand **69.7 MW**
- Total energy conveyed **456 GWh**
- Regulatory value **\$174 million**

Balclutha Depot and Office Rebuild

In a couple of months PowerNet teams will move into the company's new purpose-built depot in Charlotte Street, Balclutha, as Stage 1 of the project reaches completion.

The redevelopment of the site will provide an improved work environment with modern office spaces, and better vehicle and worksite safety.

Office and workshop spaces are scheduled for completion in May and staff will move in, this will allow for the demolition of the old offices in June to make way for the new Corys shop and store.

Thirty office staff will move into the new office, while a further 25 field staff — line mechanics, technicians and arborists will have their own operations areas with workshops and storage in the new buildings, but will spend most of their time off site working on our network.

"The new building will provide a much more functional operational space for our teams and an excellent base for service delivery," says building project manager, Terry Jones.

Office and workshop spaces are 700m² each. There is also a large canopy the full width of the workshop for working under and a covered courtyard outside the staff cafeteria. All heavy and specialist vehicles will be housed undercover.

In Stage 2 of the project, the existing PowerNet building will be demolished and a new warehouse and retail space for Corys Electrical Ltd (PowerNet's contracted electrical supplier) will be constructed.

Stage 2, including groundworks such as sealing and garden planting, is scheduled to be completed in October this year.

"We've been able to use local and Otago based firms in this project which is good for the local economy. Work is progressing well, with multiple crews on site now as the building takes shape," says Terry.



Construction of PowerNet's new office and workshop at Balclutha.

Central Work Continues Apace

There are no surprises that PowerNet teams are kept busy installing electrical infrastructure for new residential and commercial developments in the Queenstown Lakes area.

There are over 2000 new customer connections to the Electricity Southland Ltd (ESL) network in the Queenstown Lakes area. The scope of ESL's network in Wanaka is also set to expand with the new Clearview subdivision.

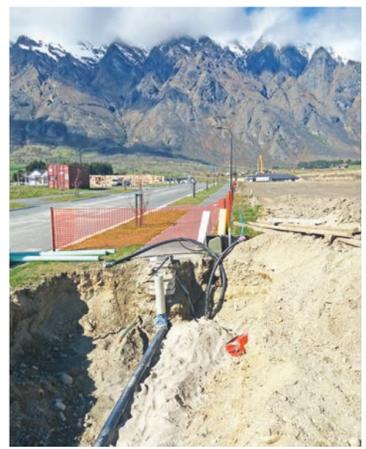
At Hanley's Farm, near Queenstown, Stage 6 (195 lots) is already completed. Stage 5 (382 lots) is under design with cable installation set to start in May 2020. A new 500-pupil primary school is also being built there. PowerNet's specialist cable pulling winch has been used extensively in installation work in this subdivision. High voltage network planning has been critical to allow for future expansion into further stages and new subdivisions.

While all stages are complete at **Shotover Country**, there's still infrastructure installation work to be done, with the construction of 24 lots of medium density residential infill and commercial/hospitality development.

There'll be ongoing installation work at the **Queenstown Country Club** (retirement village) with the construction of the new Southern Cross hospital set to start mid-2020, and continuing development of the village's northern block.

At Remarkables Park, new hotels and apartments are being constructed, these include the Ramada Kawerau Hotel and Suites Queenstown, a Holiday Inn and Lakeview Gardens Hotel. There is also a special housing development, Toru Apartments, which will consist of 234 apartments being built over the next three years.

This large-scale subdivision work on the ESL network has provided new opportunities for our cable jointing staff from Invercargill and Balclutha to acquire new skills. They've been able to learn more about the techniques necessary for working on larger sites, operating alongside our highly skilled Queenstown based cable jointers.



Cable trenching at Hanley's Farm.



The basement work next to the high voltage supply cables and ring main unit that will supply Lakeview Gardens Hotel.



PowerNet substation maintainers working on the new transformer at Northlake subdivision in Wanaka.

Power Issues?

We're always working to improve the reliability of our network. This means we're having far fewer power outages but occasionally they still happen.

Check www.powernet.co.nz to view or report outages. Alternatively, phone our System Control team on **0800 808 587**.

Power Issues?
 Call  **PowerNet** on
0800 808 587


Finegand Substation Upgrade

A more reliable electricity supply is in store for some South Otago customers with a planned \$1.46 million upgrade of the Finegand substation on the OtagoNet network.

"This upgrade will really increase the reliability of supply to local consumers. Now a fault on one of Transpower's supply lines will not disrupt power to the Finegand substation," says PowerNet's Balclutha based network assets engineer, Lloyd Williamson.

The substation's ageing 33kV structure is being replaced with more modern ground mounted switchgear and a neutral earthing resistor (that limits the current that would flow during an earth fault) is also being installed. In addition, two 33kV overhead electricity lines that run across the Silver Fern Farms Finegand Plant car park are being replaced with underground cables.

"This work to upgrade infrastructure continues to improve the reliability, safety and efficiency of electricity and support our South Otago communities and businesses," says Lloyd.

The upgrade is scheduled for completion this year.



The Finegand substation.

Waihemo Lodge Gets an AED

Customers at Waihemo Lodge can now feel a bit safer after the installation of a life-saving automated defibrillator (AED) donated by PowerNet and St John.

The donation is one of four defibrillators donated by PowerNet and St John to southern organisations over the past year.

When available within minutes of a cardiac arrest, an AED can dramatically improve a person's chance of survival.

The donation is part of PowerNet and St John's sponsorship to improve public safety and education in the south. This successful community partnership supports first aid training and health and safety in the southern region.



L/R: Les Scott (Waihemo Lodge), Rachael Watt (PowerNet), Tania Bungard (St John) and Warren Dobson (PowerNet).

If you have any concerns about our service please call us on 03 211 1899 and we will be pleased to help – we have a free internal complaints process. If we are unable to resolve your concern you can contact the free and independent Utilities Disputes Limited on 0800 22 33 40 (www.utilitiesdisputes.co.nz)