

Media Release

Kaikohe, Thursday 16 April 2009



Business as usual in Kaikohe

When a car crashed into a power pole on the corner of Broadway and Rankin St, Kaikohe around 10:30 am today, Top Energy was faced with the problem of deciding whether to turn the power off to all 100 or so Rankin Street and upper Broadway businesses, or to find a more helpful way to deal with the problem.

Through some clever thinking, the power was kept on. Line engineers were able to locate a crane truck beside the damaged pole, strap it to the crane then use live line maintenance techniques to replace it with a new pole.

Top Energy also engaged a professional traffic management organisation to ensure traffic flows were handled safely and with as little disruption as possible around the work site.

Top Energy Chief Executive Officer, Russell Shaw said, "Our approach had a dual focus. Our first priority is the public's safety. Then, our focus is to use every available means to minimise or, if possible, eliminate the impact of the outage on our power consumers. A conventional and less expensive approach would have been to simply disconnect the supply and replace the pole. You could expect a job like that to take at least 3 hours, which would have been a major disruption for businesses. Happily in this case, we were able to keep the power on, so it was business as usual".

END

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