

PRESS RELEASE 14 May 2020

## **COVID-19 Assistance: Waipa Networks Brings Forward Customer Discount to Help Local Community**

Electricity lines company Waipa Networks has brought forward its next customer discount distribution to provide timely financial assistance during COVID-19.

“We know customers look forward to our twice-yearly discount distributions, which normally take place in March and September each year” said Waipa Networks CEO Adam Fletcher. “We distributed almost \$3 Million to customers in mid-March this year which we know was much appreciated. We’ve now decided to bring our next discount forward by 3 months to mid-June to further help our community during these challenging times”.

Customers receive their Waipa Networks discount as a credit on their Electricity Retailer power account. To qualify to receive a discount a customer needs to be registered for supply with an Electricity Retailer and connected to the Waipa Networks network on the qualifying date. The amount each customer receives varies and is estimated based on the lines charges applied to their connection over a 12 month period. At the March 2020 distribution customers received an average of \$111.00 each.

“COVID-19 is a real challenge for us all and as an essential service Waipa Networks’ focus continues to be to provide a reliable and safe electricity supply to our local community” said Mr Fletcher. “But we also recognise we are in a strong position to help the community financially through our discount timing. Our finance and administration staff are working hard to have this ready early for next month.”

Waipa Networks will announce the qualifying date and total funds to be allocated closer to the time. If customers have any questions about the upcoming discount, or previous discounts, they can contact Waipa Networks on 07 872 0745 or email [waipa@waipanetworks.co.nz](mailto:waipa@waipanetworks.co.nz).

### *Background*

Waipa Networks is a Te Awamutu-based electricity lines business that supplies over 27,000 customer connections in Te Awamutu, Cambridge and surrounding areas. It is owned by the Waipa Networks Trust on behalf of the electricity customers it supplies and has a history in the local community dating back over a century with the forming of the Te Awamutu and Cambridge Electric Power Boards.

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