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## **CITIPOWER AND POWERCOR WIN ESTEEMED EMERGENCY RECOVERY AWARD**

CitiPower and Powercor have won a prestigious international award for its emergency response to the major, gale force wind storms that rocked Victoria in April 2008.

The “Emergency Recovery Award,” presented annually by US based Edison Electric Institute (EEI), recognises exceptional efforts in restoring power services disrupted by severe weather or other natural events.

Following an international nomination process, a panel of judges chose CitiPower and Powercor as winners, acknowledging their exceptional efforts to restore 99.9 per cent of customers impacted by sustained power outages after just one day.

The wind storms were among the worst the state has ever seen, bringing hundreds of trees down across power lines and contributing to major impacts for rail networks, the closure of major arterial roads and thousands of calls to the State Emergency Service.

The 130 kilometre-per-hour winds affected around 400,000 electricity customers across throughout Victoria, 140,000 of which are supplied by CitiPower and Powercor.

CitiPower and Powercor worked tirelessly to execute the challenging effort to bring their customers back on line,” said EEI President Thomas R. Kuhn. “The company’s actions offered a terrific example of our entire industry’s determination to restore power safely and as quickly as possible.”

CitiPower and Powercor CEO Shane Breheny said managing the impact of the event posed a significant challenge for his business and its employees.

“The weather event was akin to a category four cyclone and caused severe damage to Victoria and its electricity distribution networks,” Mr Breheny said.

“After managing to restore power supplies to all of our customers we were then able to shift our resources to other parts of the state to assist fellow distribution companies in their recovery efforts.”

“While extreme weather events and the damage they cause are always unpredictable we are becoming better at managing the impacts these events have had on us, our networks and our customers. While it is extremely gratifying to win this award, our continual challenge is to find new ways to improve our emergency response.

**Media inquiries: CitiPower and Powercor’s 24-hour media service on 9683 4342**

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