

## **Q&As – Next step of broadband programmes**

### **What is being announced today?**

The Government is extending the Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) and Rural Broadband Initiative programmes:

- Extending the Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) initiative from a target of 75 per cent of New Zealanders to 80 per cent of all New Zealanders at a cost of between \$152 and \$210 million, funded from the Future Investment Fund
- Establishing a new \$100 million fund to extend the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) to rural areas outside the UFB footprint
- Creating a \$50 million Mobile Black Spot Fund to extend mobile coverage in the more remote parts of New Zealand, and fill black spots on main highways and in key tourist areas.

These announcements bring the total investment in better connectivity for New Zealanders close to \$2 billion.

### **What are the coverage targets for the extensions?**

The objective of the UFB extension is to extend the coverage of fibre-to-the-premises to at least 80 percent of the population. The objective will continue to be to provide a minimum of 100Mbps services. In line with the current UFB programme, faster UFB services are also expected to be made available.

The ROI – Supply process will enable the government to consult with industry to determine the greatest possible broadband coverage able to be achieved within the funding indicated for the RBI extension.

### **What are some of the towns that could get fibre next?**

The final list of additional towns to receive fibre to the home, and the order of roll-out, will be determined following a competitive bid process, which will take into account the cost of deployment, strength of consumer demand, and regulatory and other assistance from local authorities.

However, based on the methodology used for the original roll-out, this could see a number of towns be strong contenders for inclusion in the UFB extension, including: Te Puke, Motueka, Morrinsville, Kerikeri, Huntly, Thames, Matamata, Ōtaki, Kawerau, Waitara, Kaitaia, Dannevirke, Alexandra, Stratford, Whitianga, Cromwell, Taumarunui, Picton, Foxton, Kaikohe, Marton, Te Kuiti, Katikati, Temuka, Waihi, Waipukurau, Warkworth, Carterton, Dargaville, Opotiki, Snells Beach, Te Aroha, Wairoa, Paeroa and Westport.

### **What are the coverage targets for the original programmes?**

UFB is currently being deployed to 75 percent of the population by the end of 2019.

At the end of the first stage of the RBI, 86 per cent of households and business outside of UFB areas will have access to broadband capable of minimum peak speeds of 5 megabits per second.

### **What are some actions councils might take?**

Examples of the actions local authorities could take to support their bid for better connectivity include:

- work with residents and businesses to identify opportunities for broadband use and support rapid uptake
- develop a Digital Enablement Plan for the community
- facilitate consent processes for new infrastructure
- provide information about existing infrastructure that could be used to make deployment quicker and less expensive
- provide assistance in developing or operating new sites, for example by making land available, or providing access or track maintenance.

### **What are the objectives for the Mobile Black Spot Fund?**

The objective is to increase mobile connectivity to rural and remote areas to improve the safety of life and property on main highways, increase social inclusion, and boost the economic development potential of key tourist destinations. As there are no significantly-sized permanent populations along main highways and key tourist destinations, the government has not set population coverage targets for this programme.

The *ROI – Support* process will enable the government to engage with local authorities to determine where extended mobile coverage is likely to achieve the greatest benefits for sections of main highways and key tourist destinations.

### **What feedback is the Government looking for in the *ROI – Supply* document and from whom?**

The *ROI – Supply* seeks comment on the design and specifications from any interested stakeholders.

The *ROI* invites potential infrastructure suppliers to register their capability and interest in participating in a Request for Proposals tender process to deliver services towards one or more of the UFB2, RBI2, and Mobile Black Spot Fund initiatives.

Telecommunication companies are being invited to indicate the technology mix that will supply the best service to rural areas.

### **What is the process of selection for towns and communities?**

The Government will review all the responses received to both ROIs. The next step will be to seek more formal proposals from potential suppliers. On the basis of all the information received, the towns, areas and sites will then be finalised.

Individuals should approach their local council if they would like to share their views regarding priority areas.

**What is the role of Crown Fibre Holdings in the extension?**

The Crown-owned company Crown Fibre Holdings will retain its role in managing the tender, contracts and implementation of the UFB extension. The *ROI – Supply* process will provide further information from key stakeholders on the most effective management structure for the RBI extension and the Mobile Black Spots Fund.