



*What's it
all about?*

A REVIEW OF

The Telecommunications Act

This brochure gives a snapshot of the issues and some key questions. You can view the full discussion document and give your views online at www.mbie.govt.nz/telcoreview, or contact the team directly at telcoreview@mbie.govt.nz.

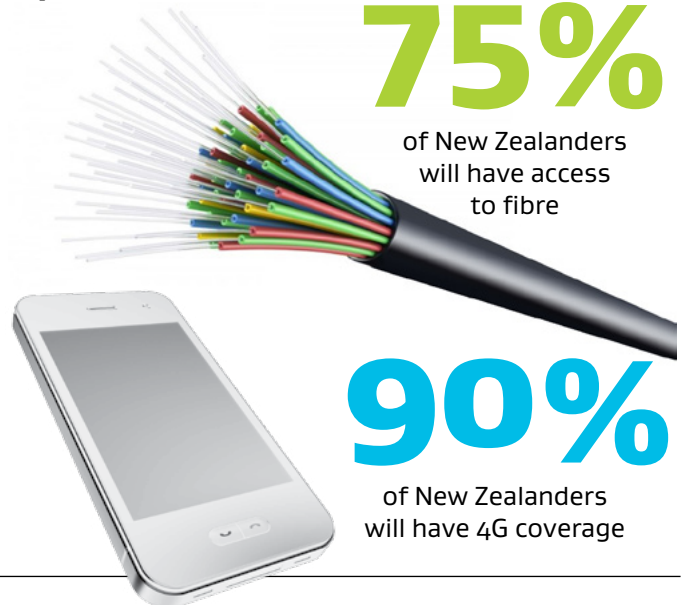
Submissions close on 27 October, 2015.

We want to make sure New Zealand has the right laws for our communications networks after 2020, to meet the needs of consumers and businesses, and to help keep our economy growing.

The way New Zealanders communicate is changing. We are using new devices – mobile phones, tablets, smart TVs – to connect in new ways. We rely on our internet connections for business, government, education, and health. We expect reliable, always-on connectivity, at home, at work and on the move.

The communications sector is adapting to this change, and to the new technologies which underpin our communications networks.

By 2020...



6 Challenges for our communications regulatory system

- 1.** The distinctions are breaking down between broadcasting, publishing, IT and telecommunications industries – but our regulatory systems are still separate.
- 2.** Technology and customer needs are changing rapidly, and our regulatory system needs to be flexible and up to date.
- 3.** The internet allows services to be provided across borders – how can we make sure all players are treated fairly?
- 4.** Our regulatory systems were designed for a different era, and need a health check to make sure they will work well in the future competitive environment.
- 5.** Price setting processes for broadband have been long and unpredictable – how can we make them simpler?
- 6.** Everything is going mobile. We need to build on competition in mobile services in order to support further growth.



We now consume TV, movies, books, newspapers and radio online, blurring the boundaries between once separate industries...



Outcomes for New Zealand

- What should our long-term goals be for the communications sector?
See [Chapter 1](#)
- Would it make sense for a single 'Communications Act' to cover all access and pricing regulation for telecommunications, broadcasting and radio spectrum allocation?
See [Chapter 3](#)



Setting wholesale prices for fixed line services after 2020

- What is the best way to set fixed line wholesale prices after 2020? Should we treat telecommunications the same as utilities like electricity?
- How could we make price-setting process simpler and more predictable?
See [Chapter 4](#)



The mobile sector and radio spectrum

- What is the best way to allocate and assign radio spectrum in future?
- Should we encourage increased roaming and infrastructure sharing in the mobile industry?
See [Chapter 5](#)



The toolkit

- Does the Government need new tools to achieve better outcomes in the communications sector?
- For example, do we need: a new purpose statement for the Act, mandatory codes for industry, measures to encourage deregulation, greater flexibility for the Commerce Commission, or a merits review of Commission decisions?
- Is there anything else missing from the current laws – or anything happening which shouldn't be?
See [Chapter 6](#)



Congestion and 'net neutrality'

- Is there evidence of net neutrality problems in New Zealand?
- Should network operators be able to manage traffic through prioritisation or deprioritisation on their networks?
See [Chapter 6](#)



Switching over to fibre

- What is the best way to ensure a smooth transition away from the copper network in fibre areas?
- What are the barriers to Chorus stopping copper services in fibre areas?
See [Chapter 6](#)

