

BROADBAND & COMMUNICATIONS

Building a Stronger Economy



Transforming New Zealand's future

National is building broadband infrastructure that will help transform New Zealand's future, promote greater innovation, create more jobs with higher incomes, and grow our economy.

We will make sure our broadband speeds are among the fastest in the developed world. We will continue rolling out ultra-fast broadband and rural broadband, and free-up 4G wireless frequencies to turbo-charge mobile broadband.

Our plan for faster broadband

National has embarked on one of the most ambitious communications projects possible – rolling out ultra-fast “fibre to the home” to 75 per cent of homes and businesses, and vastly improving broadband infrastructure and connection speeds in rural areas.

Through Crown Fibre Holdings, we have set up four public-private partnerships for the ultra-fast broadband initiative. We have also established another for our rural broadband initiative. These partnerships provide a cost-effective build price for taxpayers and will deliver competitive wholesale prices for consumers, while using the expertise of established companies in the sector.

We have also improved regulations to encourage competition. To take part in the ultra-fast broadband initiative, Telecom will split into two companies – Telecom and Chorus – with Chorus owning the infrastructure. This will create a level playing field for all telecommunications retailers and encourage innovation and price competition.

“National will deliver ultra-fast fibre to the home within eight years, and faster rural broadband within four years, with hospitals, 98 per cent of schools, and 90 per cent of urban businesses able to connect up to fibre by the end of 2015.”



Key facts

- \$1.5 billion for nationwide ultra-fast broadband with speeds over 100 Mbps.
- Ultra-fast broadband to 75% of people where they live, work, and study by the end of 2019.
- \$300 million for our rural broadband initiative.
- 97.7 per cent of schools and 99.9 per cent of students to get ultra-fast broadband by 2015.
- 60 remaining remote schools to be connected by wireless or satellite by 2015.
- Over 6000 health premises to access ultra-fast broadband.
- Schools, hospitals and 90 per cent of businesses covered by 2015.

National has...

Begun the rollout of ultra-fast broadband

- ✓ Committed \$1.5 billion.
- ✓ Established Crown Fibre Holdings, completed competitive tenders for ultra-fast broadband (UFB), selected four build partners, and started the roll-out of fibre.

Launched the Rural Broadband Initiative

- ✓ Committed \$300 million.
- ✓ Set up and tendered the roll out of our Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI), to vastly improve broadband speeds in rural areas.

Supported faster broadband

- ✓ Set up a new Telecommunications Development Levy to fund rural broadband, emergency services, and other Telecommunications Service Obligations (TSO).
- ✓ Passed the TSO, Broadband, and Other Matters Act to provide the regulatory regime for UFB and RBI, and to allow for the structural separation of Telecom.
- ✓ Set up a range of initiatives to help with the cost-effective roll-out of fibre to the home, and developed a five-point action plan to encourage fibre uptake.

Prepared schools for broadband

- ✓ Upgraded cabling in one-third of schools, so they are ready for ultra-fast broadband.

Improved mobile performance

- ✓ Committed to switching over television from analogue to digital by 2013, to free up the 4G spectrum for mobile operators.
- ✓ Regulated mobile termination rates to encourage more competition among mobile phone companies.

- ✓ Worked with Australian authorities to set up an investigation into trans-Tasman mobile roaming rates.

Improved 111

- ✓ Set up a Memorandum of Understanding to improve the governance of the 111 emergency phone service.
- ✓ Set up a comprehensive review on 111 services in the new telecommunications environment.

Protected cyber security

- ✓ Prepared and launched the New Zealand Cyber Security Strategy to improve New Zealand's protection against cyber threats.

Our results so far

- Set up the framework for the ultra-fast broadband network and the successful roll-out of the Rural Broadband Initiative.
- Ensured a very competitive pricing framework to encourage uptake by businesses and consumers.
- Finalised deployment plans and started roll-out in key locations around the country.

We have moved forward in a number of related areas to ensure New Zealand has a vibrant, competitive telecommunications sector.

Attention is now turning to making the most of the uptake and taking advantage of all the benefits ultra-fast connectivity brings.

What we will do next...

1. Roll out ultra-fast broadband

- Roll out the first stage of ultra-fast broadband to businesses, schools, health centres and other priority users in 33 cities and towns around New Zealand.

2. Roll out our Rural Broadband Initiative

- Roll out the bulk of our Rural Broadband Initiative and deliver much faster broadband speeds to most of rural New Zealand, using fixed wireless, ADSL, and fibre technologies.

3. Make the most of faster broadband

- Connect 97.7 per cent of schools and 99.9 per cent of students to fibre with speeds of at least 100mbps by 2015, with the remaining 60 most remote schools connected by point-to-point wireless or satellite connections.
- Put in place a five-point action plan to realise the economic, social, and productivity benefits of much faster broadband, with a focus on E-education, E-health, E-government, E-business, and E-development.
- Develop an online Network for Learning across all schools to maximise the benefits of ultra-fast broadband for the education sector.

4. Turbocharge mobile broadband

- Complete the switchover from analogue to digital television by November 2013, and free up the 700MHz frequency band for much faster 4G mobile broadband services.
- Plan for the release of 4G spectrum to the market as soon as it is available, to maximise the benefits of 4G mobile broadband.

5. Improve New Zealand's cyber security

- Continue the development of the National Cyber Security Centre and the implementation of the New Zealand cyber security plan, to protect critical infrastructure and services and counter the threats of cyber-intrusions.

Labour would take New Zealand backwards

Labour:

- ✗ Has criticised and opposed every stage of the work done to proceed with the ultra-fast broadband initiative.
- ✗ Has committed to changing the legislation again and re-starting the programme, which would add years of uncertainty and delay, and very large extra costs for taxpayers.
- ✗ Was very slow at improving telecommunications in government, taking seven years to deliver any progress at all, and failing over nine years to regulate mobile phone termination rates.
- ✗ Would condemn rural communities to remain on dial-up and other slow internet connections.

We can't afford another dose of Labour.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime chance to achieve world-leading telecommunications services. Labour would squander that chance.