



Date: 24 September 2007
To: Ministry Economic Development
From: Enterprise Clutha Trust
Subject: Telecommunications Service Obligations Regulatory Framework – Discussion Document (August 2007)

Prepared by: Leslie Schlender, Enterprise Development & Tourism Manager

A reliable, modern and effective communication network is an integral part of every industry sector – agriculture, transport, construction, tourism, retail – to name a few.

Enterprise Clutha, as the economic development agency for the Clutha District, strongly urge that the current TSO, and it's arrangement with Telecom, be reviewed and monitored for delivery and effective investment and reinvestment of assets to create and maintain a level of service that can offer modern telecommunications to both RURAL and urban centres.

We therefore submit to the discussion document review these comments:

- The scope of availability and access to network infrastructure fit for quality service of broadband and cell phone services to RURAL areas needs to be addressed and developed through a TSO.
- An agreement such as a TSO, or a 'tender contract' out to telecommunications companies to develop and upgrade the availability of broadband services so that all New Zealanders can benefit from equal services, is obviously a responsibility of central government. Could central government, than not offer the hardware put in place on a lease-basis to all telecommunications companies, making this a viable investment and a more cost-effective service to rural users? This could be an effectively managed and accountable separate TSO solely addressing this issue and the acute shortfalls of services in RURAL areas.
- A TSO should ensure that all areas of New Zealand have access to emergency call services and a standard service requirement, regardless of provider. This should be a separate and accountable TSO to ensure that services are delivered with 100% reliability throughout all service areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Schlender", written over a white background.

Leslie Schlender
Enterprise Development & Tourism Manager