
From: Rick Mansell [rickm@gdc.govt.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 22 November 2007 8:50 a.m.
To: Operational Separation
Subject: Submission

Kia ora:

Tried to read the proposed guidelines for Telecom's Draft Separation Plan and got mired in legalese and bureautalk.

The issue with the communication system on the East Coast is that the public are divided into three call zones – those in Wairoa, those in Gisborne and those up the East Coast. With Gisborne being the central service centre for all in these three areas, the public is charged tolls to contact those who provide critical services for them to make "normal" transactions with the business and professional community where these services are located in Gisborne City. Part of a viable community is being able to communicate with those in that community yet it costs more to make a call from Ruatoria to Gisborne than it sometimes costs to make a call from Gisborne to Vancouver, Canada.

The area is also bereft of effective and/or efficient internet service. Telecom has focused on the areas of New Zealand with higher population densities while those in low density rural areas have been left behind. Effective internet connection is a must for all businesses in today's world (including farmers in the country). Agriculture and horticulture are an important backbone of the New Zealand economy and need to be recognised as such through the delivery of modern communication services.

If the posted proposal is going to address these issues in a pro-active manner, then it should be supported. If this document will do nothing towards addressing these issues then the benefit to the East Coast region is negligible.

Sincerely,
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