

Report on Rural Broadband Stakeholders Meeting, Nelson 11 May 2011

Date: 16 May 2011

Rollout Plan

- The rollout plan will be released by the end of June
- Telecom plan to roll out the Rural Broadband network over the next four years, finishing in mid-2015. The main body of the rollout will take place in the first two years.
- For Tasman District, the key changes are as follows;
 - Year One
 - the extension of fibre broadband into Murchison
 - the extension of fibre over the hill to East Takaka connecting up the Golden Bay fibre to Takaka township
 - Year Two
 - the extension of fibre around Golden Bay to Collingwood
- New areas for fibre broadband connections include;
 - Year One
 - Dovedale
 - Lake Rotoiti
 - Mahana
 - Murchison
 - Ngatimoti
 - Tapawera
 - Tasman
 - Upper Moutere
 - Year Two
 - Collingwood
 - Takaka
 - Motupipi
- There are also plans for new Vodafone wireless towers at;
 - Motueka
 - Tasman
 - Pohara
 - Takaka
 - Tapawera
 - Mapua
 - Wakefield
- These wireless towers will be operated by Vodafone but will be open access, meaning that any other cellular or wireless data operator can connect their devices and set up competing services.

Network Speeds

Rural schools will be connected via Telecom (Chorus) backbone fibre at 100 Mbps. Marae, farms, rural businesses and households will also have the opportunity to connect at the same speed if in close proximity to the fibre.

The fibre will also terminate at Vodafone wireless towers which will provide wireless cellular data at an average speed of 5-7 Mbps (although contention i.e. “busy-ness” issues will apply) to rural customers.

Council Issues

Council has a role to play in the following areas;

- Assisting with communicating the changes coming to our rural regions through publications such as Newslines and the council Website.
- Assisting with resolving issues that may delay the Rural Broadband rollout.
- Explore any planning issues that may arise and working together with Telecom and Vodafone on any strategies to improve the time taken to process Telecom and Vodafone consents for the Rural Broadband initiative.

Next Steps

1. Information from the presentation will be available from Vodafone and Chorus and collated on the Ministry of Economic Development Website.
2. Council may wish to communicate the upcoming changes through its Newslines magazine.
3. Explore the possibility of a sub group, including members of planning and transportation, to work with relevant parties from Vodafone and Chorus to consider the rollout requirements and how Council might assist.