



## File note - Meeting

**Date of Filenote** 20 June 2023

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**Time:** 8:30am to 9:34am

**Location:** MS Teams

**Parties:** John Gandy, Trish Cleland, Kate Robinson - representing the Commerce Commission




**Classification:** In-Confidence - Commercial

**Subject:** Meeting to discuss Info Requests to inform Rural Connectivity Study

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*Information contained in this document should be considered as commercially sensitive*

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- John Gandy provided some background on the reasoning for the study and how this works in with the AMR. Definition of rural = non SFA.
- AMR used by policy makers etc. so we want to fill the gaps in rural. We are also required to review the copper regulated services – again, don't have a lot of information in this space.
- Other stuff we are asked to provide advice on from MBIE, and MBIE has signalled it is reviewing the TSO in the future.
- WISPs are a subset of providers in the rural areas and can help tell the story in this space.
-  But we want to include the smaller providers – as many as possible. The service provided is significant and becoming more significant. It also provides a different lens / audience that we need to listen more to.
- We are going to ask questions of all providers – on a per 'end user' basis.
  - o Customers – where they are
  - o Sites – where they are and what customers they serve, how much backhaul and battery back-up
  - o Will issue a form and you will complete the bits that are applicable to you.
  - o Primarily GIS information. Some of you will have that overlay on your system.
- We will issue a draft information request, and will discuss constraints etc. We don't want to make this harder than it needs to be. There is flexibility. We have started from an 'ideal' but expect that it will not all be possible.
- Explore the best information set that we can get, in terms of developing it.

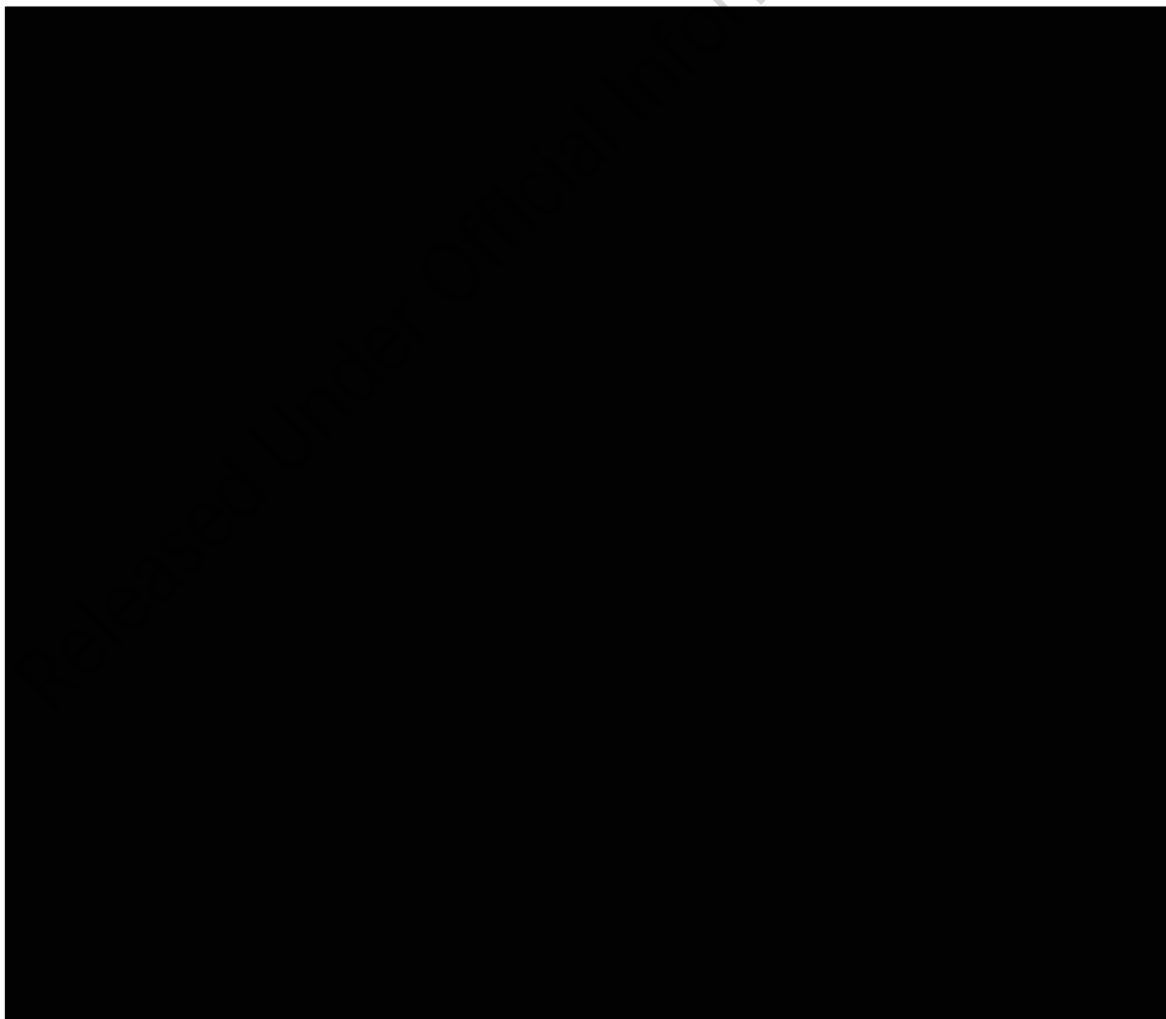
- A lot of this information will be collected annually. We will try to use this to replace / consolidate data collection.
- We will be setting up a confidentiality processes that will be applied. Information is considered commercially sensitive. We would talk to providers before releasing and information in the event of an OIA.
- [REDACTED] – control information, how? Especially addresses. The reason we want addresses is so that we can re-cut in different ways. E.g. SFA / non SFA to define rural – we may want to use a different definition. By collecting data at this granularity, can re-cut based on Stats definition for example.
- How many years will it be confidential for? Until we are told it is not confidential. We are not certain how long we would keep the information. Customer data is close to hearts. CIP have dealt with the information and use cautiously. We don't want to see that information disappear into the wrong hands.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Expect data to be tagged confidential / sensitive. Some may be public.
- Look after customer information dearly – commercial sensitivity that information is not released, in a form that is useful to a competitor.
- [REDACTED] – Supplier – Supply a large number of the group. Higher cost of connecting clients, lower return on investment. At this stage, only collecting info on government investment, from CIP. That is something we may look to down the track. Not 'fishing' at this stage – haven't identified a specific need, but may come in the future. Have supplied equipment for RBI1, 2 3
- Mike (Lightwire) – what does great look like at the end? What is the end outcome? *Mike was late to meeting, so missed beginning...*  
A whole bunch of things in rural that are coming together. Rural areas, where not economic to have fibre – big gap here. Largely ignored because it was inconvenient. The focus is moving to the service in rural and how good it needs to be. Provide info (via AMR) now with rural chapter. For policy makers. We have a need to perform a review of copper regulated services by end of 2025 – we don't have the data to support this review (regulation, price reviews, etc.) We will be asked our view on other things – MBIE review TSO in next couple of years, plus the stuff that CIP do. Lots of stories, but not much hard data. Because we want to use for many things, want at a low level of granularity so that we can re-cut it as we need.
- A clear line between what we need and what we are asking for. It will always be used in an aggregated form to provide information. At most will be updating every 12 months, otherwise as we need it.
- Carrot approach. The stick is a s98 Info Request. Would only use if there was data that was sufficiently important that we were not able to get voluntarily. Sometimes, providers request the s98 in the first instance. s98 – does it apply to international companies operating in NZ. No? Anti-competitive behaviour – this is being looked at by another part of

ComCom, in terms of pricing policy. WISPs come under NZ jurisdiction, some operators don't. This is becoming less palatable. They are paying taxes, levies.

- CIP have the data – they won't provide without written consent.
- **Action: NDA re security of information has been requested.**
- Feedback can be provided directly to John, or if WISPs would prefer to consolidate their feedback and send via [REDACTED] – that works also. Will likely be a combination of both.

#### **National broadband map**

- has not been addressed. This is a topic of hot discussion. It is our objective in the longer run to link up with National Broadband Map – what that will look like is being discussed with Internet NZ and ComCom Mgmt. We would want to see some funding for that – not currently a requirement on us. A lot of effort to maintain. That negotiation still to go on.
- In time expect it to all link in / pull together – but not easy.
- [REDACTED] – coverage maps for broadband map for CIP. No confidence that that will be loaded at any stage. Broadband Map could be a carrot for WISPs. Talking to Internet NZ – and will pass comments on. We are aware not being updated in a timely manner.
- Need to manage scope here re RCS – not in scope.



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**Filenote completed by Trish Cleland.**

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