



File note - Meeting

Date of File note 20 June 2023

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Time: 12:00pm to 12:43pm

Location: MS Teams

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

Classification: In-Confidence - Commercial

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

Information contained in this document should be considered as commercially sensitive

- John Gandy provided some background on the reasoning for the study and how this works in with the AMR. Telco Acts also requires us to review copper services. With this, we realised there are current gaps in the data. Also, there is other stuff we are asked to provide advice on from MBIE, and MBIE has signalled it is reviewing the TSO in the future.
- Need to get a better handle on the rural area – and that is how this study was born. It is about gathering information.
- We are going to ask questions of all providers – on a per ‘end user’ basis at quite a detailed level. This is based on an ideal data list. Asking for a conversation about the data we are interested in.
- Data on a per end user basis
- Location, what plan they are on, technology provided over – because Chorus was once considered a monopoly, a factor for us to consider whether regulation should continue.
- Will consider affordability in the study and will get information from Stats NZ to facilitate this.
- We want it this granular, so we can cut it different ways. E.g. collecting national data, so we can make comparisons between urban and rural. Currently definition of rural is where there is no fibre. This definition will likely change.
- We know there will be difficulty to capture some of this information. In some cases, averages will be ok.
- Will be issuing draft information requests, so we can discuss the data that we seek to capture. We know it costs money to collect the data, so must be value on both sides.
- Will request 5 data records as a sample to test the submission process.

- Request is voluntary. The stick approach is a s98 requirement to provide information. This would only be used as a last resort. Sharing for transparency, not as a threat.
- Ideally, want monthly data for last 2 years. At a minimum, data as at 30 June 2023.
- Confirmed coverage per site – where you know your site can see and provide service. After that, best information possible – and interested in range of services available within reason. Not requesting you to ‘generate’ information.
- **James – KiwiWifi:** Is there any scope for the carrot? Increased visibility of the services that people provide. Smaller, regional providers have been overlooked in the past. WISPs provide a significant amount of service in rural, this study makes that more visible and prominent. Decisions have been made on position of big RSPs in the past – this gives WISPs more visibility.
Sounds like couple of days work for the effort – ComCom won’t pay for the effort.
30 June 2023 – data as at that date as the minimum.
- Trish indicated allowing just under 2 weeks for feedback. Will then incorporate the feedback before issue the official Information Requests in June. Will allow approximately 4 weeks for the data to be collected / submitted.
- **Lachlan** – wholesales to other providers. What we are interested in what you wholesale. Usage – some are wholesale, some large farms. Data per connection if possible. If hard to collate, what’s a reasonable time to collect? We hope that you would be able to write a report across a computer system... e.g. report on customer usage, aggregates ok, as long as we know that we are getting aggregates.
GIS side – how much accuracy? Geocoded address ok? Looking for the land parcel.
- **Kelly** – location, GPS coordinate is good. Rural addresses are difficult. XY coordinates first, or land parcel and least preferred information is address but we will take it.
Coverage per site – shape files? That’s already provided to the broadband map. Do we need to send again? Yes – we want the information from the direct source. If already provided, should be easy to provide to us as well.
- **???** Will we get information from CIP? Yes, but not individual information – we want that from you, or your permission for them to share your information. But prefer to get directly from you.
- **Kelly** - What technology? Type of connection type, e.g. point to point wireless or cellular wireless.
- Sites – where they are and what customers they serve, how much backhaul, technology of backhaul and battery back-up including for how many hours.
- **Brett** – does it matter if battery back-up is solar? If it is and not mains powered, just state that.
Rebecca – we have solar and a generator back-up as well. Is that information useful? Yes.
RAM resilience? JG: If power went off, how much longer would your site go for?
Brett – how small do you define a site. 2 customers – too small. Less than 10 customers, can avoid.
Jeremy – any site below 10, don’t need at individual level? These are most of Jeremy’s.
Because we are aggregating data, less relevant with the smaller sample sizes.

- We will have a confidential process to submit the data. Data considered commercially sensitive, therefore will not be available under OIA. Have taken this approach from RPS process, where that data is commercially sensitive. We already collect a lot of this from Chorus. If somebody asks, we would release at a level of aggregation that would not make any sense at an individual level. There will be no 'look-up' available for people to see what's available based on their location. Looking at joining this up with Broadband Map and/or SFA – still talking to Internet NZ re Broadband Map. Ideally, would ask for information once, but use in a variety of ways. This is all a work in progress.
- Looking at an NDA as part of this – we would regard subscribers information as commercially sensitive. And would not release data until we speak to the provider first, and again it would be in an aggregated way.
- **Kiwi(guest)** – Are you getting information from Satellite providers. Yes – not sure they know where their customers are. Have been talking to them and so far have been friendly. Can collect aggregate data rates. We will be asking them for the same information. If they cannot provide, will look at our levers.

Filenote completed by Trish Cleland.