MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Briefing for the Incoming Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media

Communications and the Digital Economy

26 October 2017

New Zealand Government

Contents

1. Portfolio Overview

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with information about the Communications and Digital Economy components of the Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media portfolio. Further briefings will be provided focussing on specific topics in depth, guided by your priorities.

Communications networks and technologies are critical for economic growth, social, and regional connectedness

2. As Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, you have the opportunity to improve New Zealand's economic performance and the lives of all New Zealanders. This can be done by providing high quality communications infrastructure, ensuring appropriate settings exist to incentivise investment in new technologies and give consumers confidence, and driving growth in the digital economy.

The operating environment is changing and changing quickly

3. Digitalisation is rapidly changing how New Zealanders work, live and do business. The potential is unbounded, with digital healthcare, precision agriculture and integrated smart cities on the horizon. All these developments are underpinned by New Zealand's telecommunications networks and services.

4. The Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) programme and the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) are delivering improved broadband services to urban and rural New Zealand. In addition, the Mobile Black Spot Fund (MBSF) will deliver new mobile coverage on stretches of state highways and in tourism locations. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has completed a comprehensive review of the Telecommunications Act 2001, and is now leading the implementation of a new regulatory framework for pricing fibre services and improving the quality of service for consumers.

5. New Zealand prices for broadband and mobile phone bundles compare well to other OECD countries, illustrating improvements in technology and competition between telecommunications firms. For example, a 'premium' 100 megabits per second (Mbps) UFB fibre broadband service with unlimited data and a voice line costs around $90 a month, which is 8 per cent below the OECD average and 19 per cent below Australian prices. In terms of mobile services, a 'serious user' bundle with 100 minutes call time and 2GB (gigabytes) of data costs around $33 per month, 31 per cent below the OECD average.

6. But there is still much to be done.

7. The high expectations of telecommunications systems, including resilience in the event of a natural disaster, are reflected in telecommunications' status as a lifeline utility. Many initiatives across other sectors also reflect these high expectations. For example, the intelligent transport systems that have the potential to transform the safety and efficiency of our road networks depends on reliable connectivity that allows vehicles and other infrastructure to communicate with each other.

8. The bar is continually being raised regarding the level of capability and performance of communications networks, as well as the ancillary data services needed to attract and grow successful businesses. The technology sector is now the 3rd largest sector in New Zealand, responsible for $6.3 billion (9 per cent) of exports and $16.2 billion (8 per cent) of GDP.

9. Progress is also being made through the UFB, RBI and MBSF programmes but there are still places in New Zealand where the performance of telecommunications networks can be improved. The impact of differences between urban and rural connectivity will need continuous monitoring. New Zealand cannot afford to be complacent.

10. Significant industry disruption is expected from global 'over the top' players, such as the so-called 'Big Five' (Alphabet (Google), Apple, Facebook, Microsoft and Amazon) as well as emerging big hitters from China (Huawei, Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent and JD.com) entering the market. These changes have the potential to dramatically alter the shape of the domestic industry. Market power could shift from domestic players to large international companies, which may reduce the incentives for investment in New Zealand's communications infrastructure. Such changes could also raise questions about how key policy outcomes, such as consumer protection, fair prices and network resilience, are achieved.

11. New Zealand's communications regulatory settings will need to remain appropriate in the face of rapid change, industry disruption and ongoing uncertainty. A more proactive approach to New Zealand's external engagement to influence and shape the international regulatory environment so that it benefits New Zealand will also be necessary.

12. At home, continuing to support New Zealanders to harness the social and commercial benefits of increased digitalisation will remain a key focus. The Digital Economy programme is working to encourage businesses to maximise their use of digital technologies to improve their productivity. The programme is also providing thought leadership within government to understand the potential impacts on New Zealand's society and the economy of new technologies, such as augmented and virtual reality, the internet of things, and artificial intelligence. Looking ahead, the programme will also need to explore the government's role in maintaining consumer and business confidence in digital participation in the face of technological advances, new ways of delivering services, and new risks emerging from cyber-attacks and data collection.

Four key areas of focus to keep pace with the changing environment

1. Growing New Zealand's digital economy

13. The digital economy is not new, but it is becoming an increasingly important driver of New Zealand's economic growth and the wellbeing of all New Zealanders. Technology underpins more of how our businesses operate and how New Zealanders participate in economic and social activities. Investment in connectivity infrastructure is putting in place a strong foundation for the country's digital future. However, focus must also be given to ensuring that laws are suitable for the digital age, that we are creating and attracting the right types of skills, and that people and businesses are confident and able to use new digital technologies.

14. The aim is to enable New Zealand to become a leading digital nation – a nation with a thriving digital sector, where businesses, people and government are all using digital technology to drive innovation, improve productivity and enhance the quality of life for all New Zealanders.

15. The rapid pace that digital technologies can evolve at and the wide-ranging impacts they can have across economic, social, and public sector domains means that it is important for government to respond in an active and coordinated way, working in partnership with industry and community groups, to seize the opportunities and manage the challenges that come with technological change.

2. Improving New Zealand's connectivity

Broadband roll out and mobile coverage

16. New Zealand is in the midst of a major upgrade of its telecommunications infrastructure. Improved mobile and broadband coverage in New Zealand is being provided by network operators in partnership with government. Over $2 billion has been allocated to three programmes – UFB, RBI and the MBSF.

17. UFB deployment is well underway. The first phase is providing fibre-to-the-premises to 75 per cent of New Zealanders in the 50 biggest cities and towns by the end of 2019. At present, approximately 60 per cent of New Zealanders (around 1.2 million households and businesses) can access UFB fibre. The UFB programme has been expanded twice with additional funding, with contracts agreed in January and August 2017. As a result, by the end of 2022, a total of 390 towns and cities (or 87 per cent of New Zealanders) will have access to fibre-to-the-premises, enabling speeds of close to 1,000 Mbps[1].

18. Once the full UFB programme is complete, New Zealand should be in the top five countries in the OECD for the proportion of the population that can access fibre. Crown investment in UFB is set out in agreements between Crown Infrastructure Partners (formerly Crown Fibre Holdings) and four UFB deployment partners – Northpower Fibre, Ultrafast Fibre, Enable Networks, and Chorus.

19. The RBI is using a range of technologies to provide new or improved broadband to rural households and businesses. Deployment for the first phase of the RBI is complete; over 300,000 rural households and businesses can now access new or improved broadband and mobile coverage.

20. In August 2017, contracts were agreed for the second phase of RBI to provide over 70,000 more rural households and businesses with improved broadband. Alongside this, the MBSF will deliver new mobile coverage to around 1,000 kilometres of state highways and more than 100 tourist areas, supporting safety on state highways and enhancing visitor experiences at key tourist destinations.

21. RBI and MBSF are grant funded programmes. The first phase of RBI was funded by a combination of revenue from an industry levy (the Telecommunications Development Levy) and Crown revenue. The second phase of RBI and the MBSF is funded from a combination of levy revenue and returned funds from the UFB investment. Crown Infrastructure Partners has entered into contracts with the Rural Connectivity Group (Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees) and with a number of wireless internet service providers (WISPs) to deliver the second phase of the RBI and the MBSF.

Radio Spectrum Management

22. Wireless technologies (using radio spectrum) are now a ubiquitous part of modern life. Uses for these technologies include broadcasting, cellular mobile, wifi, aviation, intelligent transport systems, "short range devices" and defence.

23. The use of wireless technologies are regulated to minimise interference and to ensure the best use of a finite resource. This is primarily through the Radiocommunications Act 1989, which is currently under review.

[1] This is the equivalent to the bandwidth needed to simultaneously stream 40 different ultra-high definition videos.

24. Allocation of particular frequencies for particular uses is subject to international treaty, availability of technology and local demand. Frequencies that are highly sought after (for example, cellular mobile and broadcasting) are usually allocated initially by contestable mechanisms, such as an auction or a tender process.

25. Work is underway to support the introduction of fifth generation (5G) cellular mobile technology. In addition, MBIE is considering whether it can further support New Zealand's space industry by managing international spectrum coordination processes for satellite payload operators. Decisions on the renewal of some existing spectrum rights, and some new spectrum allocations, will be required in the near future.

3. A new telecommunications framework to support investment and competition

26. The telecommunications sector has been rapidly evolving in recent years. Investment in broadband infrastructure has led to increasing migration from Chorus' copper network to the UFB network. Broadband speeds and data usage are increasing rapidly, and increasingly New Zealanders have access to a wide range of services delivered over the internet.

27. The Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Amendment Bill aims to establish a more predictable regulatory framework for fibre access services, remove unnecessary copper regulation, streamline regulatory processes and provide more regulatory oversight of retail service quality. These changes are intended to provide investors with more certainty to continue investment in fibre networks and ensure consumers are well served by wholesale operators like Chorus and retailers like Spark and Vodafone. The Bill has been referred to the Commerce Committee.

4. Security and resilience of New Zealand's networks remain important

Infrastructure resiliency

28. Telecommunications networks provide vital communications services for all New Zealanders. Their reliability and resilience are critical. This is especially the case in emergency situations, such as the earthquakes on 14 November 2016. MBIE has commenced a review of the resilience of New Zealand's telecommunications networks to ensure that services remain as operational as possible following a physical disaster.

111 Emergency Service

29. Spark operates the Initial Call Answering Platform (ICAP) which enables the first answering of 111 emergency calls by Spark and the transfer of genuine calls to emergency service providers for response. This is a legacy role performed by Spark which originated in the Telecom Kiwi Share.

30. A mobile caller location enhancement was introduced earlier this year for 111 emergency calling that identifies the probable physical location of a mobile caller and passes this information to emergency call responders. This provides public safety benefits by shortening the time required for locating people who need assistance from emergency service providers.

31. Spark is transforming its Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) to adopt Internet Protocol (IP) technologies. The PSTN transformation will require changes to how the ICAP operates, and is not expected to impact on the service performance experienced by 111 callers.

Computer Emergency Response Team

32. The digitalisation of every aspect of our lives has also increased the reward for cyber-attacks. New Zealand's institutions and regulations need to be flexible and effective to respond to cybersecurity threats. A Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) was established in April 2017 to support businesses and individuals.

33. CERT NZ has initially been set up as a branded business unit within MBIE, involving the private sector and NGOs in its development and ongoing operation. When Cabinet approved the establishment of the CERT, it also requested a report back to Cabinet on its long term organisational form by December 2017.

2. Portfolio Responsibilities: Communications and the Digital Economy

Legislative responsibilities

34. As the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, you have certain functions, duties and powers in relation to Communications and the Digital Economy under the following Acts of Parliament:

Telecommunications Act 2001

Promotion of competition and incentives to invest

35. The Telecommunications Act promotes competition in the telecommunication services market. The regime seeks to create a level playing field where communications providers are supplying monopoly services to competitors, by establishing an access regime[2]. To this end, the Act empowers the Telecommunications Commissioner to set prices and other terms of supply for regulated services which level the playing field without discouraging investment by the access provider. Effective competition provides strong incentives to invest, as has been the case in the mobile sector, where competition has driven successive upgrades of technology.

36. The Act also provides for the Telecommunications Commissioner to investigate whether additional services should be regulated and to make recommendations to the Minister. The Commerce Commission can also recommend the removal of regulation if markets become more competitive. Its decisions are subject to review on procedural grounds, or points of law, but are not open to merits review.

37. The Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Amendment Bill was introduced in August 2017 following a review of the Telecommunications Act.

Telecommunications Service Obligations

38. The Act allows communications providers to enter into Telecommunications Service Obligations (TSO) agreements with the Crown to deliver communications services that would not otherwise be delivered by the market, at affordable prices. The local calling TSO obliges Spark to provide local residential voice and dial-up internet services and requires Chorus to provide supporting network services. A deaf relay TSO requires a relay service to be provided for hearing-impaired and speech-impaired customers so they can communicate using a range of communications services.

Levies

39. The Act provides for the following levies:

- *Telecommunications Development Levy* – This levy subsidises telecommunications capabilities in the public interest which are otherwise not expected to be available commercially, or which are unaffordable. The levy is collected from telecommunications service providers each year. Levy revenues are currently used to fund the deaf relay TSO, contribute to RBI and MBSF, and the new emergency caller location system.

[2] An access regime is a set of rules that requires wholesale network providers to allow their competitors to access their networks on similar terms to the network providers themselves.

- *Telecommunications Regulatory Levy* – This levy funds the Commerce Commission's telecommunications regulatory functions and is collected from telecommunications service providers each year.

UFB and RBI Undertakings

40. The Act provides for access providers to lodge open access undertakings for approval by the Minister. Undertakings have been approved for:

    - *Chorus* – in relation to UFB fibre networks, its legacy copper network, and RBI networks
    - *Northpower, Ultrafast Fibre Limited, and Enable Networks* – in relation to their UFB fibre networks
    - *Vodafone* – in relation to its RBI networks.

41. The Commerce Commission monitors compliance with the undertakings and can take enforcement action.

Monitoring

42. The Commerce Commission must monitor and report on market performance. It has extensive information disclosure powers in relation to UFB fibre networks.

Radiocommunications Act 1989

43. The Radiocommunications Act provides the legislative framework for managing radio spectrum in New Zealand. It provides for privately-held, tradable, and long-term rights to spectrum (either nationwide management rights or geographically-specific spectrum licences). Frequencies not transferred to the tradable rights regime are managed under a system of administrative licensing set out in regulations. The Act also sets up procedures for dealing with interference and managing disputes between spectrum users.

Spectrum management and enforcement

44. The Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) team administers the issuing of licences and the online Register of Radio Frequencies. It also undertakes compliance and enforcement actions to ensure that radio devices are operating within the terms of their licences.

45. The costs associated with radio spectrum planning, licensing, registration, compliance and interference investigation are funded by annual administration fees levied on licensees.

Crown Spectrum Asset Management

46. The Crown has reserved the right to manage particular bands of frequencies for a mixture of social, economic and technical reasons.

47. Within the management rights used for AM and FM radio broadcasting, the Crown has reserved licences for national Māori and Pacific programmes, Radio New Zealand National and Concert, and iwi radio, as well as for community and youth purposes.

48. The Crown also holds management rights at 2.5 GHz (the 'Managed Spectrum Park'), 3.5 GHz for local or regional wireless services and the VHF and UHF television bands.

49. The main issues which arise under Crown management rights relate to implementation requirements, sharing requirements, spectrum caps, renewal terms and conditions at the expiry of licences and management rights – including valuation matters, and whether spectrum should be auctioned (for new rights), or re-auctioned (for expiring rights).

Postal Services Act 1998

50. The Postal Services Act came into force on 1 April 1998 and deregulated the New Zealand postal market by removing New Zealand Post's monopoly on letter delivery. Under the Act, anyone can process and deliver mail as long as they are registered as a postal operator with MBIE.

51. The Deed of Understanding between New Zealand Post and the Government sets out New Zealand Post's minimum universal service obligations. These minimum obligations include three day per week deliveries to most urban areas, five day per week delivery for rural areas, and commitments to maintain its network of postal outlets. The Deed was last amended in 2013, and is next due for review before 1 November 2018.

52. The Act permits New Zealand Post to retain certain minor exclusive privileges, including the sole right to represent New Zealand as a postal administration internationally and to issue postage stamps with the words "New Zealand" on them.

Telecommunications (Interception Capability and Security) Act 2013

53. This Act (TICS) establishes obligations for New Zealand's telecommunications providers in two key areas – interception capability and network security.

54. All telecommunications providers are required to help fulfil interception warrants (or use on-going statutory authority). In addition, a smaller group of network operators are required to pre-invest in the equipment and technical resources necessary to carry out interceptions over their networks. The Act does not provide the surveillance agencies with the authority to intercept communications. These powers and processes are provided for in other pieces of legislation.

55. The Act sets out a path to identify, and if necessary, address network security risks which may arise from proposed investments in network equipment by operators such as Spark, Vodafone, 2degrees and Chorus. Network operators are required to engage with the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) about changes to their network equipment where such changes could have an impact on national security. The GCSB is responsible for administering the network security provisions of the Act.

Contract and Commercial Law Act 2017 (Part 4)

56. The objective of Part 4 of the Contract and Commercial Law Act is to confirm the legality of electronic transactions and facilitate the use of electronic technology to meet statutory requirements for information to be in writing, signed, retained or produced. The Part contains a list of statutory requirements which are exempt from the Part's provisions allowing requirements to be met by electronic means. This list of exemptions has been reduced since the system came into force and it is intended that it will continue to be reduced over time. Note that on 1 September 2017, Part 4 of the Act replaced the Electronic Transactions Act 2002.

Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act 2007

57. This Act regulates the sending of electronic messages. The Act prohibits the sending of unsolicited commercial electronic messages for marketing or promotional purposes using email, text, fax or instant messaging services and imposes certain requirements on the sending of commercial electronic messages. The Act establishes a civil penalty regime for non-compliance and is enforced by the Department of Internal Affairs.

Television New Zealand Act 2003 (Part 4)

58. The Television New Zealand Act governs the operations of Television New Zealand (TVNZ) and provides the company editorial independence of which freedom from political influence is a fundamental principle. The Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media is responsible for the administration of Part 4 of this Act – relating to powers of shareholding Ministers (setting dividends) and restrictions on shareholding Ministers' directions to ensure the editorial independence of TVNZ.

Crown Entities, Companies, State Agencies, and Boards

Telecommunications Commissioner

59. The Telecommunications Act 2001 establishes a Telecommunications Commissioner, who is a member of the Commerce Commission and is appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister responsible for the Act.

60. You are responsible for the appointment of the Telecommunications Commissioner and are the key ministerial contact for the Telecommunications Commissioner. The Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs is the Minister responsible for the Commerce Commission as a whole.

Name	Date of original appointment	Expiry date of present term
Dr Stephen Gale, Telecommunications Commissioner	1/07/2010	11/07/2020

Crown Infrastructure Partners

61. On 1 September 2017, Crown Fibre Holdings Limited (CFH) was renamed Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited (CIP) and its scope of work broadened beyond the UFB, RBI and MBSF programmes. In addition to these programmes, the scope now includes investigating and implementing commercial models (including those that will enable co-investment from the private sector or any other sector) to achieve the Government's objectives for the deployment of water and roading infrastructure to support a timely increase in housing supply. CFH was originally established (as a Public Finance Act Schedule 4A company) to manage the investment in UFB infrastructure.

62. To address any perceived conflict with your role as the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media, the shareholding Ministers are the Minister of Finance and the Minister for State Owned Enterprises, and the Treasury is the monitoring agency. However, in relation to delivering broadband policy, you are the key Minister CIP interacts with. MBIE also works closely with the Treasury to monitor CIP.

63. Directors on the CIP Board are appointed by shareholding Ministers following Cabinet approval.

Name	Date of original appointment	Expiry date of present term
Mr Simon Allen (Chair)	1/11/2015	31/10/2018
Ms Miriam Dean QC	1/11/2015	31/10/2018
Dr Murray Milner	1/05/2017	30/04/2020
Mr Keith Tempest	1/05/2017	30/04/2020
Ms Danielle Dinsdale	1/05/2017	30/04/2020

Television New Zealand

64. Television New Zealand (TVNZ) is a Crown Owned Entity. Its shareholding Ministers are the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media. The shareholding Ministers are responsible for appointments to TVNZ's Board of Directors and setting the level of dividends required. In addition, the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media is responsible for broader policy relating to TVNZ and commercial broadcasting.

Name	Date of original appointment	Expiry date of present term
Dame Therese Walsh (Chair)	16/07/2012	30/04/2018
Mr Andy Coupe (Deputy Chair)	1/05/2017	31/10/2019
Ms Abby Foote	1/11/2016	31/10/2019
Mr Cameron Harland	1/05/2017	31/10/2019
Mr Toko Kapea	1/01/2016	31/10/2018
Mr Kevin Malloy	1/05/2016	31/10/2018
Ms Julia Raue	1/05/2014	31/10/2019
Ms Sussan Turner	1/05/2015	30/04/2018

New Zealand Post

65. New Zealand Post is a state owned enterprise. Its shareholding Ministers are the Minister of Finance and the Minister for State Owned Enterprises. The Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media is responsible for the administration of the Postal Services Act 1998 and postal policy generally. The only specific responsibility the Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media holds is to consider any request from New Zealand Post to amend the provisions of the Deed of Understanding, which sets out the minimum standards New Zealand Post must meet, and to consult with the Minister for State Owned Enterprises prior to agreeing to any amendment.

CERT Establishment Advisory Board

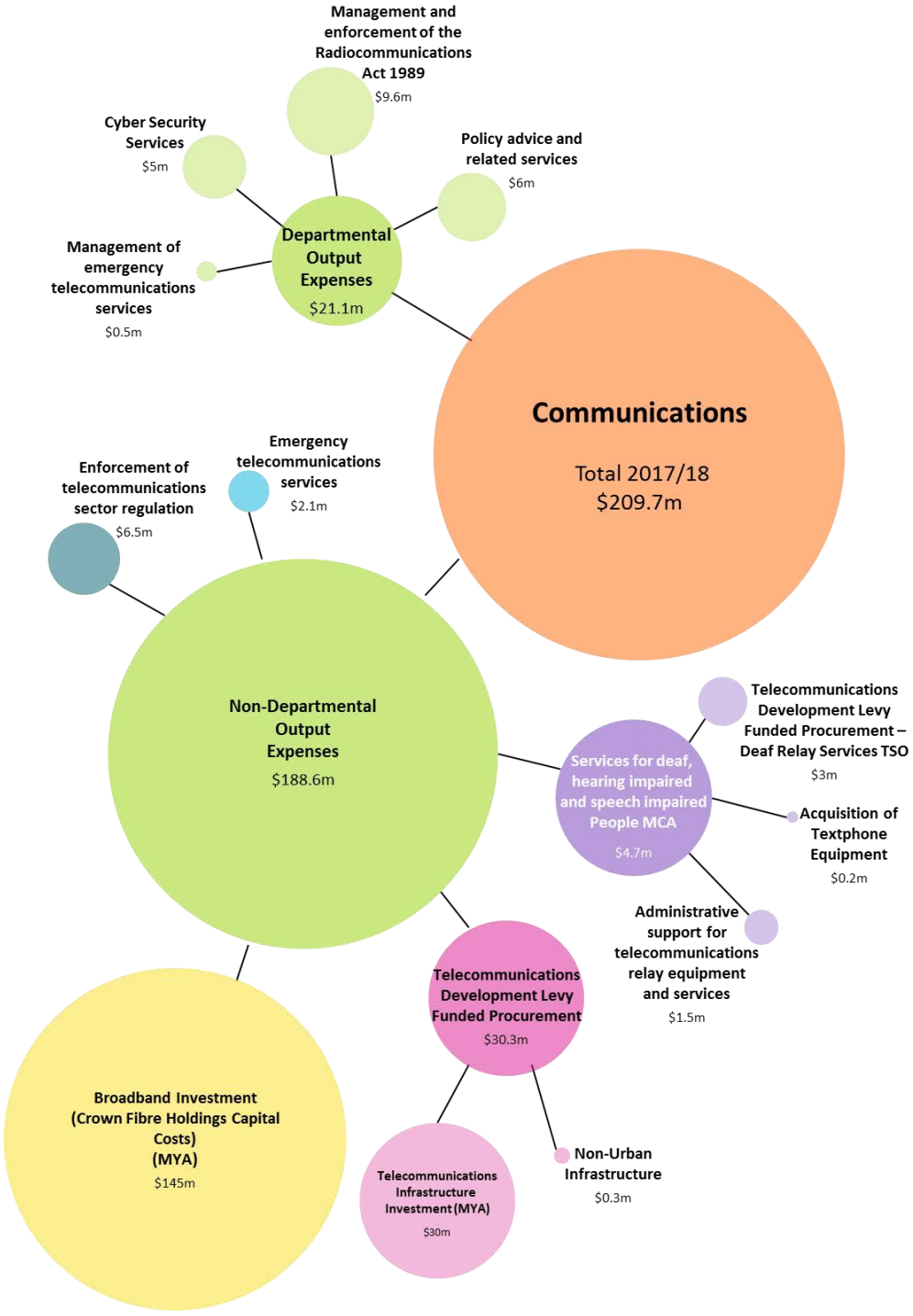
66. The CERT Establishment Advisory Board was appointed by the Minister for Communications in August 2016, to provide advice and support to the CERT project team and CERT NZ during its establishment phase, which covers both the project and first year of CERT NZ's operation. Following the establishment of CERT NZ in April 2017, the Board will provide advice on the longer-term form of CERT NZ and the move to such a form.

Name	Date of original appointment	Expiry date of present term
Mr Michael Wallmannsberger (Chair)	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Mr Paul McKitrick	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Mr Rick Shera	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Mr Adrian van Hest	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Mr David Eaton	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Ms Sarah Burke	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Mr Jon Duffy	22/08/2016	31/03/2018

Ms Deborah Monahan	22/08/2016	31/03/2018
Ms Kendra Ross	22/08/2016	31/03/2018

Funding

67. The Communications and Digital Economy aspects of the portfolio are funded under Vote Business, Science and Innovation. The portfolio received approximately $209.7 million in 2017/18. The diagram below sets out the total 2017/18 appropriation for Communications. This captures both departmental (funding received by MBIE to provide services directly) and non-departmental (funding provided via MBIE to other agencies for them to provide services).



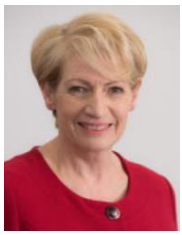
68. The function receiving the largest amount of funding ($145 million) in 2017/18 is the Broadband Investment (Crown Fibre Holdings Capital Costs). This appropriation funds Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited's (formerly Crown Fibre Holdings Limited) investment in UFB deployment. The UFB investment model sees funds returned from the Crown's partners reinvested in deployment. There is an additional multi-year appropriation (MYA) *Broadband Investment (Crown Fibre Holdings Capital Costs (UFB2))*, of $210 million over five years. However, the spending for 2017/18 will come from existing funds returned to Crown Infrastructure Partners, rather than the appropriation, therefore it is not shown in the diagram above.

69. The *Telecommunications Infrastructure Investment* appropriation ($30 million for 2017/18) funds the second phase of RBI and the MBSF, also managed by Crown Infrastructure Partners Limited.

3. Major Links with Other Portfolios

70. The Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media portfolio provides a range of opportunities to work with other ministers to deliver broader outcomes. The Communications and Digital Economy aspects of the portfolio are closely linked to the following portfolios:

4. Key MBIE Officials

Official	Role	Contact details
	Carolyn Tremain Chief Executive Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment	04 901 1357 *[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]* Carolyn.Tremain@mbie.govt.nz
	Chris Bunny Deputy Chief Executive Building, Resources & Markets Group (policy responsibilities)	04 901 8728 *[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]* Chris.Bunny@mbie.govt.nz
	Brad Ward General Manager Commerce, Consumers & Communications Branch (policy responsibilities)	04 474 2184 *[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]* Bradley.Ward@mbie.govt.nz
	Greg Patchell Deputy Chief Executive Market Services Group (radio spectrum management and CERT)	04 474 2926 *[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]* Greg.Patchell@mbie.govt.nz
	Sanjai Raj General Manager Consumer, Protection & Standards Branch (radio spectrum management)	04 474 2699 *[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]* Sanjai.Raj@mbie.govt.nz
	Rob Pope Director CERT NZ	04 917 1054 *[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]* Rob.Pope@mbie.govt.nz

5. Communications and the Digital Economy Work Programme

71. This chapter summarises for you the recommended focus for the first 100 days in addition to the priorities we have set out in our covering letter. This has been grouped as follows:

- *Key decisions* – actions that would be required by you to progress key policy work and meet statutory requirements.
- *Upcoming events* – events that are expected to occur that are relevant to your portfolio.

Key decisions

Topic	Description	Driver	Timing	Area
Things currently scheduled to happen				
RBI and MBSF	Approve the open access undertakings provided by the Rural Connectivity Group with regards to the second phase of RBI and MBSF, and inform the Rural Connectivity Group of this by letter.	Response to third party	*[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982]*	Communications Policy
Renewal of rights to use the 1800 and 2100 MHz bands	Existing rights of use for the 1800 and 2100 MHz bands are expiring and need to be renewed to allow Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees continued access to these bands for their 3G and 4G mobile services.	Ministerial approval for Cabinet paper content		Radio Spectrum
[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982]				
Spectrum access for 5G technology	Technical consultation on frequencies and other parameters needed to facilitate the introduction of fifth generation (5G) cellular mobile technology.	Ministerial approval required	*[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982]*	Radio Spectrum
[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982]				
Public Finance Act Schedule 4A company	Input into letter of expectations to Crown Infrastructure Partners for the 2018/19 financial year.	Statutory requirement for the Minister for State Owned Enterprises	*[Information withheld consistent with s9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982]*	Communications Policy and ICT Policy & Programmes

Topic	Description	Driver	Timing	Area
[Information withheld consistent with s6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982]				

Upcoming events to be aware of

Event	Description	Timing	Area
Cyber Smart Awareness Week 2017	CyberSmart Awareness Week is an education and awareness campaign run by CERT NZ and Connect Smart (National Cyber Policy Office). This is the inaugural event and will become an annual campaign.	27 November – 1 December 2017	CERT