



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Min Lee	Portfolio	Media and Communications
Title of Cabinet paper	Release of discussion document – Enhancing telecommunications regulatory and funding frameworks	Date to be published	28 May 2024

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
April 2024	Release of discussion document – Enhancing telecommunications regulatory and funding frameworks	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
9 April 2024	Enhancing Telecommunications Regulatory and Funding Frameworks: Release of Discussion Document EXP-24-MIN-0020 Minute	Cabinet Office
April 2024	Discussion document: Enhancing telecommunications regulatory and funding frameworks	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

- Constitutional conventions 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect – the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.
- Commercial information 9(2)(b)(i) – protect information where the making available of the information – would disclose a trade secret.



Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Enhancing Telecommunications Regulatory and Funding Frameworks: Release of Discussion Document

Portfolio **Media and Communications**

On 9 April 2024, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

- 1 **noted** that while the telecommunications regulatory framework is generally delivering good outcomes for New Zealanders, the Minister for Media and Communications (the Minister) believes some enhancements should be actively explored, including:
 - 1.1 removing any unnecessary restrictions on some fibre providers (including those originally put in place at the start of the Ultra-Fast Broadband initiative) to support business growth and innovation and the potential development of more rural connectivity solutions;
 - 1.2 introducing greater flexibility to how the Telecommunications Development Levy is set, to allow the Government to respond to rural connectivity needs in a timely way whilst also managing cost-of-living impacts;
 - 1.3 updating some settings to account of market and technological change, such as the growth in low-earth orbit satellites in our market; and
 - 1.4 other potential changes to ensure the telecommunications regulatory regime remains fit for purpose;
- 2 **approved** the release of the discussion document titled *Enhancing Telecommunications Regulatory and Funding Frameworks*, attached at Appendix One to the paper under EXP-24-SUB-0020, subject to any minor and technical changes that the Minister considers necessary;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister intends to report back to Cabinet on the next steps and any proposed policy decisions on these matters following consultation.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

(see over for attendance)

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Hon David Seymour (Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for EXP
Office of the Minister for Climate Change