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Hon David Cunliffe  
Minister for Communications and Information Technology  
Parliament Buildings  
PO Box 18-041  
**WELLINGTON**

Dear Minister

### **BROADBAND INVESTMENT FUND CONSULTATION PROCESS**

Vector welcomes the announcement of the Broadband Investment Fund ("**BIF**") as a demonstration of the Government's commitment to the upgrading of broadband infrastructure in New Zealand. As you are aware, Vector is investing heavily in broadband communications infrastructure, and recently announced a 300km extension of its Auckland network.

Vector is actively engaging in the Ministry of Economic Development's consultation process, and will be making a submission on the BIF draft criteria and proposed process. However, I am writing to provide you with early feedback about the proposed timing, an area that Vector is particularly concerned about.

As currently proposed, there is only one month allowed between the close of submissions on the draft criteria (30 June) and the opening of the expression of interest ("**EOI**") phase (end of July). This is highly unlikely to provide an adequate opportunity for the MED to analyse the submissions on the proposed urban and rural criteria and to make changes. Interested parties such as Vector will also need time to consider any changes made as a result of the consultation process before submitting EOIs. Vector considers that there will need to be substantial changes made to the proposed criteria, and that these changes will themselves need to be consulted on before the EOI phase of the BIF commences.

As a result, we ask that this timeline be reconsidered. We will be making a submission to this effect as part of our submission to MED, but we wanted to give you an early heads-up.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss the problems with the criteria, the changes that may need to be made, and the pressures that this will place on the proposed timeframe.

Kind regards

**Simon Mackenzie**  
Group Chief Executive