

Digital Development Council

Issues Paper: Broadband Investment Fund

Background

The last Council meeting requested a summary of the issues arising in the current consultation on the criteria and processes involved in the government's Broadband Investment Fund. InternetNZ, TUANZ and Local Government New Zealand have made submissions to the consultation.

This very brief paper summarises the common themes that emerged in those submissions for the Council's consideration, and as a basis for discussion with government officials on any changes to the BIF criteria or processes. It does not necessarily represent all the views of each of the three organisations.

Key Themes

In the submissions, the following issues were highlighted:

1. Definitions of open access and rural/terrestrial must be clear. For "open access" TUANZ's suggestion of DDC helping develop this is useful. InternetNZ solutions to other definition questions supported. *Key point: clarity and consistency required.*
2. Early applications should be allowed where business cases are already developed. *Key point: early runs on the board are preferred.*
3. Flexibility in funding amounts, criteria etc based on the business case, \$ leverage, solving unmet demand, should be allowed by the criteria and process. *Key point: flexibility is vital to getting best value and avoiding illogical decisions.*
4. Support for open access model across all three organisations. *Key point: Open access is critical to delivering infrastructure that allows service level competition.*
5. Financial/technical support should be provided to regions to develop business cases/BIF applications. *Key point: use the application process to help drive improvements to the plans and projects for rollout in each region.*
6. Applications' review & approval process should be refined to minimise delays, transparent. *Key point: speedy and credible decisions for soonest-possible funding outcomes.*

More detail

More detail is available in the organisations' individual submissions or from their representatives at the meeting:

Local Govt NZ - Colin Drew
TUANZ - Ernie Newman
InternetNZ - Michael Wallmannsberger

Jordan Carter

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30 June 2008