

Draft Digital Strategy 2.0
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Submission to Have Your Say

This submission is made by

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The ideas expressed here are entirely his own. These do not necessarily reflect the opinions and thoughts of the staff, the board or the school community.

CONNECTION p18

New Zealand's progress towards filling these gaps will be measured by:

1. the widespread deployment of FTTN (fibre-to-the-node) as an intermediate step towards the fibre-to-the-home (FTTH), so that by 2012, 80% of users can access broadband connections of at least 20Mb/hps and 90 per cent have access to broadband connections of at least 10Mbps

My comment: This unacceptably unambitious. It should be sooner than 2012 and the percentage greater than 90%.

2. having open-access urban fibre loops operating in 15 cities and towns by 2012, to support the high bandwidth needs of large businesses, and municipalities, universities, schools and hospitals (MUSH entities)

My comment: FTTN should be available to all urban areas, not just 15 cities/towns with the provision for wireless connections. A target date of four years seems too distant in the future, especially if we are to be successful on the global front in terms of accessing market opportunities and to keep up with the knowledge wave. Priority should be for those communities that have the lowest uptake of present broadband connections. Rank the communities by uptake of broadband and target them.

3. Improving the coverage of terrestrial broadband, from 93 per cent to 97 per cent of the population by 2012, with more affordable satellite solutions for remote locations.

My comment: If we are to become a digitally literate population, then we need to have the ability to reach 99% of the population with high speed broadband as soon as possible.

4. An additional international cable by 2012, to make New Zealand's international connections more resilient and improve competition in the supply of international bandwidth

My comment: This is an absolute "must" if we are to be able connect to the www without slow-downs as experienced at present and are which likely to be slower as more users link into conventional broadband. One would hope that high speed broadband would not have the problems of slow down that is experienced at the moment by some users.

5. Ensuring all major public institutions, particularly within health and education sectors, adopt effective demand aggregation strategies that enable the deployment of 10Gbps connections by 2012

My comment: I support this with a request that all local body government be required to take a leadership role in coordinating the collaboration needed.

CONNECTION ACTIONS p19

1. Accelerating broadband investment

Development and implement mechanisms designed to accelerate investment in broadband infrastructure

My comment: Given that students in schools drive the demand for high speed internet, could the emphasis be on getting all schools up to high speed broadband internet connection status.

2. Progressing competition in the telecommunications sector

Remove barriers to market entry and promote competition in service provision to end users.

My comment: Competition in the market place removes the complacency and the greed of the monopoly, currently exercised by one company.

3. Revising the Telecommunications Service Obligations TSO

Improve incentives to invest in rural New Zealand

My comment: I agree. Central Government has a responsibility in providing for social equity.

4. Encourage competition in the wireless market

Allocate spectrum 2.3GHz and 2.5GHz for innovation shared access arrangements (including provisions to protect Maori language and culture) and 70/80GHz for high speed broadband.

My comment: I see this as critical to providing wireless high speed internet access for those who are unable to afford the present broadband or future high speed broadband connection fees. This would help overcome the issues of social inequity of the present system. My question is: Will this provision be adequate?

5. Improving access to the transport corridor

Pass the Utilities Amendment Bill to improve access to the transport corridor and develop a National Code of Practice.

My comment: All territorial bodies should be encouraged to collaborate on this issue. Alternatively a decision be made to make public sector broadband connectivity a regional council responsibility and included in the Resource Management Act.

6. Adopting national environmental standards for telecommunications services:

Adopt national standards for a range of telecommunications services to remove regional inconsistencies under the Resource Management Act and facilitate faster roll-out of services.

My comment: All territorial bodies should be encouraged to collaborate on this issue. Alternatively a decision be made to make public sector broadband connectivity a regional council responsibility and included in the Resource Management Act.

7. Promoting broadband friendly councils:

Work with local authorities to develop:

A know-how guide for local government and community groups that are developing business cases for improving broadband demand aggregation connectivity in their local area

Broadband friendly protocol for local authorities and industry

My comment: All territorial bodies should be encouraged to collaborate on this issue. Bob Devlin has made a submission to the Wanganui District Council to adopt the Digital Community Action Plan and to declare the Wanganui District Council a "high speed broadband friendly" council.

8. Aggregating public sector demand:

Work on adopting a common framework for public sector broadband demand aggregation connectivity, including health and education

My comment: All territorial bodies should be encouraged to collaborate on this issue. Alternatively a decision be made to make public sector broadband connectivity a regional council responsibility and included in the Resource Management Act.

9. Using the National Broadband Map:

Use the national broadband map effectively to support regional broadband planning and business case preparation

My comment: The map is not very user friendly. There is little useful information about existing optic fibre cabling. The intention to have this updated by industry is admirable. This should have "high priority" status. The only way to find out who has fibre optic cabling in our community is to door knock and ask questions.

CONFIDENCE p21

In developing digital capability, we need to:

1. Improve the knowledge and skills of managers who will lead New Zealand's economic transformation through the use of digital technologies

My comment: I agree

2. Address the shortage of ICT practitioners by better aligning education programmes and industry needs to improve skill mix and quality

My comment: I agree

3. Elevate the status of ICT careers and qualifications to attract and retain skilled workers

My comment: I agree

4. Help employers to improve their recruitment and retention of ICT practitioners domestically and overseas

My comment: I agree

5. Use an effective, coordinated approach to developing ICT practitioners skills

My comment: I agree

6. Ensure that secondary school students are aware of and well prepared for to pursue careers in digital technology and business

My comment: I agree

7. Develop general digital literacy in schools and in the community through voluntary sector organisations.

My comment: How far does the new curriculum go towards developing capabilities in digital literacy? Perhaps a clear definition of digital literacy needs to be publicised.

CONFIDENCE ACTIONS pp22-23

1. Developing a unified skills strategy

Take a unified approach to ensure New Zealand individuals and organizations can develop and use the skills needed in the workplace of the future

Work to date includes building firms' capacity to help managers and workers to increase their understanding of the benefits of ICT-enabled productivity and innovation and their capacity to engage with and use ICT

2. Implementing the National ICT Skills Collaboration (NISC) initiative

Collaborate with industry to deliver projects to reduce ICT skills shortages, including internships, promote ICT careers, programmes to increase participation from under-represented demographics and improve communications between education providers and businesses

3. Sourcing talent for New Zealand's ICT sector

Implement an action plan to enhance the ability of New Zealand ICT companies to recruit and retain skilled migrants

My comment: There skilled New Zealanders overseas who could be attracted back to New Zealand. Why not target these people?

4. Developing well-qualified ICT professionals

Improve the professional standard of ICT careers and competencies of ICT workers. This will ensure ICT qualifications meet international benchmarks, and all ICT employees in New Zealand have access to high-quality professional development and training.

5. Reforming tertiary education

Ensure a tertiary education system that provides quality, relevant education and training that contributes to the government's economic development goals.

Work with a selection of key organisations and businesses in the ICT sector's training and educational requirements. This will help ensure that tertiary education investment decisions align with the needs of the ICT sector.

My Comment: This will require coordination at a national level, with inducement for tertiary providers to come on board.

6. Implementing digital technologies framework

Deliver specialised and in-depth digital skills to students in years 11 to 13

Provide teachers with appropriate resources and knowledge to ensure that more students leave secondary school with specialised digital technology skills, knowledge and credentials that are appropriate for tertiary institutions and the work place.

7. Delivering the New Zealand Curriculum technology learning area (TLA)

Enable students to develop a broad technological literacy, through the TLA (one of eight learning areas for schools) that will equip them to participate in the 21st century society as informed citizens and give them access to technology related careers.

My comment: How far does the new curriculum go towards developing capabilities in digital literacy? Perhaps a clear definition of digital literacy needs to be publicised

8. Applying Foundations for Discovery – Supporting Learning for Early Childhood through ICT: a framework for development

Use ICT meaningfully in early childhood education services to help children grow up as competent and confident learners and communicators

9. Implementing the Aotearoa People's Network

Enhance New Zealand's public library network by establishing free internet access via libraries – providing computer and ICT hardware, onsite support and skill building, tools to encourage users to create, access, share and preserve content and community digital storehouses for citizen-created content.

My Comment: I agree. The Wanganui District Library charges a fee for internet use. A broadband friendly council would ensure that this does not happen.

Security Actions p25

Supporting the internet safety group

Support the provision of comprehensive ICT security and safety education and awareness-raising, including schools, businesses and households, and research into online social networking issue

My comment: Is the amount of \$750,000 per annum or is it one off? We would like to see this as ongoing.

CONTENT p27

1. Improving access to culture in the digital environment
2. Increasing production of creative digital content
3. developing skills for artists and executives
4. strengthening creative sector partnerships
5. commercialising the creative innovative economy
6. building a creative innovation economy

DIGITAL CULTURE ACTIONS p30

1. Switching to digital television

The analogue switch-off date will be set in 2012 or when 75% of New Zealand households have a set-top box, or which ever comes first.

My Comment: I agree

2. Reviewing the regulatory environment for digital broadcasting and new digital media

My Comment: It is urgently needed. A freeing up of the regulatory environment is needed.

3. Launching the second Maori channel – Te Reo

My Comment: I agree

4. Developing NZ on screen

An online portal for access to New Zealand audio-visual content

My Comment: I agree

5. Delivering digital New Zealand

A programme to progressively enable communities around New Zealand to connect with, access and create content for digital repositories that reflect their rich histories, stories, cultures and environment.

My Comment: I agree

6. Developing Kiwi Research Information Service

Setup a nationwide network of research repositories to ensure New Zealand's publicly funded research results are available on-line.

My Comment: It is urgently needed.

7. Implementing the Digital Sustainability Strategy

A strategy to ensure that electronic public records are appropriately maintained by government agencies and are accessible as public archives for as long as they are needed.

My Comment: I agree. The New Zealand Genealogical Society has consistent lobbied for this.

COLLABORATION p 34

Maori

Maori are significant and growing contributors to the New Zealand economy and are well positioned to meet the challenges and opportunities of the digital environment. Maori have shown a strong up-take of digital technology, which has the potential to be harnessed for wider social and economic and cultural well-being.

Maori are creators and consumers of distinct digital content, particularly visible in broadcasting, arts education and academic arenas. This is vital in recognizing Maori culture and language in a contemporary setting, and thereby informing and contributing to our unique New Zealand identity

Maori use digital technology to connect iwi, whanau and other tribal organisations throughout New Zealand, and overseas.

Different approaches are required to protect, preserve and promote matauranga Maori.

Communities p35

1. Ongoing Community Partnership Funding for new digital projects and to help prepare for the refresh of the digital strategy.

My Comment: I agree.

2. Helping community and voluntary sector organisations to develop community wide digital strategy that will allow communities to benefit from the use of digital technologies.

My Comment: I agree.

3. Giving communities better access to government (both agencies and Ministers) in order to express their ideas, share and learn about digital and technology-related initiatives, perhaps through a six-monthly forum focused on digital communities.

My Comment: I agree.

Overarching Sector Forum p37

1. Initiate, coordinate and support collaborative projects, with or without government input and funding, to address digital issues, such as community-

based ICT skills or building ICT capability in voluntary and charitable organisations.

My Comment: I agree.

2. Provide a forum for dialogue with government and other stakeholders on digital issues.

My Comment: I agree.

3. Facilitate the sharing of knowledge and lessons from successful projects.

My Comment: I agree.

ICT Strategic Framework for Education

www.minedu.govt.nz

The ICT Strategic Framework for Education aims to improve learner achievement in an innovative education sector, fully connected and supported by the smart use of ICT. The framework seeks to deliver vision through:

1. A more learner-centred education system transcending organisational boundaries.

My comment: This poses real problems for secondary schools – it fragments the teaching process, making it very disruptive to teachers and students. Those students who leave the class for an hour or a morning a week to attend a block course never really catch up on the missed work. When they come back into the class, time is wasted on the catch-up content. The rest of the class suffers. This situation results in a cut back on content teaching. It means that the syllabus is never fully covered.

2. More informed decision making within the education sector by learners, teachers, parents, communities, public, businesses, policy makers and administrators.

My Comment: I agree.

3. Increased ease and opportunity of access and reduced compliance costs for all participants.

My Comment: I agree. But the compliance costs are the loss of curriculum coverage due to absenteeism – students at other courses for a day or a half day.

4. Increased confidence, capability and capacity from the use of ICT by all participants in the education sector.

My Comment: I agree. The downside is that ICT is not available in all school (pre-school, primary and secondary) classrooms. When a large number of users are on line and downloading large quantities of data, twisted pair cabling is very slow in delivering the goods. All school should have fibre optic cabling provided by the government, not by community raised funds. Wealthier communities may well be able to afford to do this. Low decile communities miss out. The present situation is very inequitable. Social provisioning should be a priority of the central government.

5. Greater opportunities for the generation, application and sharing of new ideas and technologies.

My Comment: I agree.

6. More effective and efficient investment in ICT by education sector government agencies.

My Comment: I agree. Central government has a huge responsibility here. Do not expect school communities or teachers to subsidise ICT investment. E.g. Some schools pay for teachers' laptop hire. Other schools make their teachers pay for the laptop hire.