

Zara Lynch

Subject: FW: Chatham Islands Council -Submission to the Digital Strategy 2.0

From: Owen Pickles [mailto:owen@cic.govt.nz]

Sent: Friday, 23 May 2008 10:53 a.m.

To: Submission@DigitalStrategy.govt.nz

Subject: Chatham Islands Council -Submission to the Digital Strategy 2.0

General Comments

The Chatham Islands Council commends the Government on the Draft Digital Strategy 2.0. The Chatham Islands would like to be an active partner in this strategy however our attempts to do so have been largely unsuccessful.

Project Probe did not deliver reliable broadband to the two schools on our main Island. The satellite connection provides a service that is constantly interrupted and goes down regularly. The Broadband Challenge fund has not yet supported our infrastructure network upgrade needs and none of the exciting initiatives reported in this draft appear to have given consideration to including the Chatham Islands in their delivery.

The Islands must have one of the greatest cases for a future proofed network in New Zealand. Our Islands are totally dependent on our communication network to support our business, community and residents that live in this most remote part of New Zealand.

Strategy Implementation Needs

The Chatham Islands greatest need under the Digital Strategy 2.0 is for an affordable, reliable, future proofed telecommunication network. Once this is in place the second priority is them developing the technology literacy of our community, schools and business sector.

The Chatham Islands Council and the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust put our hands up to work with Government and other agencies in the implementation of this strategy. Broadband and the ability to utilise the opportunities it provides is vital to the future of the Islands.

Conclusion

- 1) We reiterate our disappointment and ongoing frustration in that the first strategy has yet to be effectively implemented in the Chatham Islands. We urge that reviewed consideration is given to ensuring that current capability is supported and extended to meet the basic infrastructure and economic growth facilitation needs that have been enjoyed by residents and business entities of mainland New Zealand for some time.
- 2) We urge that the further initiatives proposed within the draft Digital Strategy 2.0 will be appropriately budgeted for to allow equitable implementation within the Chatham Islands

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Pickles', written over a curved line that likely represents a signature line.

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