

List of Questions asked through SLI.DO at the 2018 Rural Connectivity Symposium, 26th June.

Asked during the presentation of Ernie Newman

Question	Score	Answer
How are farmers in remote rural areas supposed to work responsibly with Nait when their connectivity is incredibly unreliable?	7	Sure there are some farmers whose connections are “INCREDIBLY UNRELIABLE” but far more who have connectivity that is more than adequate. My sense is that poor internet is an issue only in a small minority of cases where NAIT is not being deployed. If those farmers who do have decent connections embrace NAIT that will enhance the case for more public money to finish the job.
How do you get skilled people who want to live in cities to take up jobs in the regions? Very few educated younger people want to live in regions.	2	Two of the key reasons are (1) poor internet in the regions and (2) lower wages. Fix those and the regions will become far more attractive – if not in their twenties, then in their thirties when they have families who love the regional lifestytle.
Re NAIT: Connectivity... not to the places where NAIT is required - at the cattle yards... NAIT designed without understanding systems for use...	2	My understanding was cattle yards generally are connected and are using NAIT well – it’s the farmers transacting with other farmers who are not. Any cattle yard without Internet should talk to its local WISP www.wispa.mz
Not all farmers are NAIT non compliant. There is an attitude with those that develop these systems that needs to change to meet user needs & compliance needs.	2	If so what are farmers and their organisations doing to fix this alongside the NAIT people?
For Ernie Newman - if you had a choice, what opportunity would you tackle first?	1	Health – just because the scale of the problem and the opportunity are so ginormous.
Personal recent experience of health is that they are getting their act together - joined up records between GP & Hospital, fast free WiFi in hospital/clinics..	1	Yep – but joined up data is only a tiny start and should have happened 25 years ago. And the National Health IT Board which engineered this was rewarded by being disbanded – go figure!
NAIT needs a dispassionate review going back to first principles, I think it may well end up looking like INCIS!	1	Agree about a review but I wonder why that hasn’t happened – where are organisations like Fed Farmers in agitating for this.
The BIG issue is the way that health is funded and the need, by some, to protect the status quo.	0	Yes its one big issue but there are others. For example the reaction of doctors to change needs to be addressed.

I wonder if businesses would cluster more to regional hubs, patenting and developing trade secrets, either directly involved with agri science or independently?	0	Absolutely agree.
How would we encourage high tech industry or science to Regional areas to cluster? GOVT grants, not unlike Obama offered to entrepreneurs?	0	I actually think life in NZ regions should need little promotion. With city-grade salaries, good transport, and satisfactory infrastructure people will naturally cluster there.
Is the issue in the health sector more about Freq coverage, or in building covge inside health facilities & hospitals?le finding signal dominance? Poor coverage	0	No I don't believe that is major. No worse than in hotels or big government offices.