

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

Asked during the presentation of Andrew Button, The RCG.

Question	Score	Answer
Work with the locals to get cheaper and easier access	4	RCG are working closely with local communities and they are providing excellent assistance.
How many RCG sites are actually under construction today?	4	Six RCG sites are planned to be built by the end of August.
Have you looked into wind, solar and hydro power opportunities?	4	Yes all sources of power are open for consideration.
What about mobile white spots - cellular delivered from WISP sites to the roadside, well sign posted. Would you work with WISPs achieve that?	4	RCG will consider any suitable infrastructure co-location possibilities that meet the contractual targets.
Have you ever heard of solar energy?	3	Yes it is being considered in appropriate locations
To RCG: Get out of Wellington and talk to people within rural communities. Build trust, provide user experience customers want.	2	The RCG team are busy engaging with rural communities to ensure that all can contribute to a successful outcome for a connected rural New Zealand.
If the RCG don't deliver can the funding be clawed back and reallocated?	2	There are penalties in place if the RCG do not achieve the build targets.
When it's all up and running are you going to offer a cheap entry package for broadband	2	The RCG will not deliver any retail services. Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees have obligations to provide services from the network that RCG build, operate and maintain.
So does your map include rbi1 towers?	2	The map shown in the presentation were the 454 sites RCG is contracted to deliver. It did not include RBI1 towers. RBI1 towers will be considered in the programme for backhaul transmission where appropriate.
Site per day for 2 1/2 years? That would be 900 sites?	2	The comment was based on a working week and approximately 50 weeks in the year.
Is the RCG prepared to lose money in low density isolated communities as many in low income rural communities can't afford your costs	1	The RCG network is a non-economic network that is fully funded to be built, operated and maintained. The purpose of the network is to provide the infrastructure in order for services to be provided by the 3 mobile network operators into those rural communities identified by Crown Infrastructure Partners. RCG will not be providing retail packages direct to customers.
What does a RCG site look like? How far will the coverage reach?	1	Each site will be built according to the target end users it needs to reach, whether that be delivering broadband to households /

		businesses or coverage across state highways. In some cases both targets are relevant. The terrain of the area will also dictate what type of tower is built and if natural elevation is available or if a taller tower is required in an area of flat terrain.
How do you provide wholesale services so RSPs can innovate.	1	A co-location and backhaul service is available from each grant funded tower that RCG build.
Where will the pricing for WISP collocation on RCG infrastructure come from?	1	The WISP co-location service will be built on cost recovery only.
Fuel cells? Forward and store of energy where the demand is? Enatels Energyhub, Synergi, and Grid tie solar	1	All alternative power sources are being considered in areas where mains power does not make sense.
So not going to be ready for the RWC?	1	The Rugby World Cup is scheduled from 20 September 2019 – 2 November 2019. The RCG will have a number of sites built and operational by September 2019 but our contracted programme is scheduled to be fully built by 2022.
Is there any funding for RSG from regional bodies (as the policy intended)?	0	There is no formal funding provided by Regional Authorities to RCG. Many Regional Authorities have goals and funding in their economic development plans to support improved connectivity.
Why is there expensive duplication on backhaul/DMR with the WISP's builds?	0	The RCG is working with all available options for backhaul capability and co-location opportunities.
is RCG familiar with the new rural proofing tool announced by Govt last week?	0	Yes we are aware of the MPI Rural Proofing, the policy that formed the RCG Contract was developed in 2017.
What role will the extensive existing backhaul fibre running across NZ play for the RCG's new sites?	0	Where it makes economic sense to obtain fibre backhaul for RCG facilities then this will be utilised.