

---

**OUR COMMUNITIES NEED TO BE HEARD**



# **Resilience and certainty**

TUANZ Rural Connectivity Symposium 2023

## 2022 RURAL CONNECTIVITY SURVEY

- 98% have internet to the farm / house
- 19% are on ADSL / VDSL (down from 25% in 2019)
- 19% are on satellite broadband (up from 17% in 2019)
- 52% are on wireless broadband (up from 49% in 2019)
- 55% had speeds 20mbps or slower (down from 61% in 2019)
- 70% of those with speeds greater than 100mbps had been with their provider for less than a year
- 43% of those with speeds less than 5mbps had been with their provider for more than 10 years
- 32% in the last 12 months felt their internet connectivity had declined

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Wireless black spots
- Wireless provider options
- Areas with no or little reception to areas with more frequent call drop outs
- Geography and line of sight an increasing issue
- Fixing issues for rural consumers

## CYCLONE-AFFECTED AREAS

- Rural networks vulnerable to outage
- Continuity of electricity supply a concern
- Roads and bridges vulnerable to slips and washing out
- Seeking assurances of resilience of rural network infrastructure
- Hardening existing works / increasing redundancy with new works

## SATELLITE BROADBAND

- 19% of respondents are on satellite broadband (up from 17% in 2019)
- Likely to be higher this year
- Great option for remote and difficult to service locations
- Limited in the connectivity services it provides / supports

## 3G SHUTDOWN & SATELLITE TO MOBILE

- ~40% of respondents can connect to 3G at best on farm
- 3G shutdowns announced for 2024
- Satellite to mobile announced for 2023/2024

## COPPER LINE NETWORK

- ~64% of respondents still have a landline to the farm residence (down from 80% in 2019)
- ~69% of respondents get their landline through the copper line network
- Copper-line network ageing out
- Retention correlates with mobile signal strength and electricity supply reliability
- Question-mark around availability of alternatives for voice call services



## THERE IS A LOT OF GOOD WORK HAPPENING OUT THERE...

- Government and its Digital Strategy
- Crown Infrastructure Partners and the Remote User Scheme
- Chorus and their Future of Fibre programme
- OneNZ / 2degrees and satellite to mobile implementation
- Commerce Commission work on retail service quality and service performance benchmarking

TUANZ Rural Connectivity Symposium 2023



## ... BUT WHAT OUR PEOPLE REALLY NEED TO KNOW IS

- What is happening?
- Where will it happen?
- When will it happen?
- How will it work?