



COMMUNICATIONS

Vibrant communities are the meeting-point of many factors. One is a strong and advanced communications system that supports all the interactions New Zealanders make in their day-to-day lives.

It is United**Future** policy to:

- Initiate a national partnership involving telecommunications companies and the government to develop a realistic timetable for the extension of broadband services into rural areas and hard to service urban areas.
- As part of the national partnership, we envisage a joint programme being developed for the extension of broadband services (both wireless and fibre based) across New Zealand and would commit the government to a minimum \$500 million investment to achieve that by 2014.
- Create a national "Do Not Call" register, allowing people to list their home phone numbers. Numbers on this register will be legally protected from receiving calls from telemarketers.
- Ban telemarketers from calling anyone after 9pm, or on Sundays.
- Lower the cost of cell phone usage by ensuring that New Zealand has an open competitive modern telecommunications infrastructure, backed by a sound regulatory framework to protect the public interest;
- Take all necessary steps to safeguard children from harmful internet material, working with the Internet Safety Group and the industry to ensure that filtering software and other appropriate safety measures, including effective Codes of Practice, are adopted.