

11 November 2016

Melissa Lee  
Chairperson  
Commerce Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Who's  
putting local  
issues on  
the national  
agenda?

**We are.  
LGNZ.**

Dear Chairperson

### **Telecommunications (Property Access and Other Matters) Amendment Bill**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the new subpart of the Telecommunications (Property Access and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. On behalf of our 78 member councils, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) would like to note its support for the proposed new sections that would grant statutory rights of access to use existing electricity works for deploying fibre optic cable.

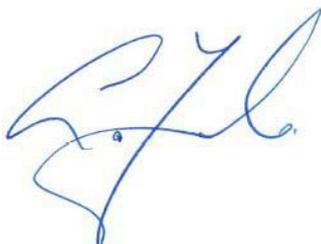
State of the art broadband is essential infrastructure to help retain and attract new residents, employees and businesses to our regions, which is in line with LGNZ's strong focus on regional development and growth across all of New Zealand. Councils across the country have been active in the roll-out of broadband technology to their communities, and this proposal further aids the roll-out.

LGNZ in particular supports:

- 1) **Fibre on power poles:** The right for fibre optic cables to be added to existing electricity corridors, without the need to renegotiate the terms of access with each landowner. In return, landowners will be able to connect to an Ultra-Fast Broadband service;
- 2) **Free fibre connection:** The free installation of a fibre connection point and a 200 metre overhead fibre service line connection where there is an existing aerial installation;
- 3) **Fibre to the farm:** This is an enabler to get ultra-fast broadband type speeds deep into the rural community, improve consumer choice of broadband products, reduce data caps and improve broadband reliability and speeds. This will allow rural businesses to be more efficient and participate fully in e-commerce, enable educational opportunities for rural children and improve social inclusiveness for rural populations.

We thank the Commerce Committee for including this proposal within the Bill and seeking interested views from all parties.

Yours sincerely



**Lawrence Yule**  
President  
Local Government New Zealand