



Rural Connectivity Group



A more
connected rural
New Zealand
is coming

Getting more rural Kiwis connected is a challenging task - this is due to the rugged terrain, low population numbers, and the cost of building and operating a network in remote places.

Better mobile phone and high-speed broadband services are needed - and absolutely critical for daily life in rural New Zealand.

Being connected means:

- being able to contact emergency services making our communities and roads safer
- opening up a world of innovation to make farming safer, more efficient, profitable and sustainable
- the kids doing their homework online
- paying business and household bills online
- fast access to online entertainment and social media
- bringing our rural brands to the world
- furthering our environmental and predator-free aspirations
- tourists sharing their experiences and boosting our global reputation
- bridging the rural vs urban digital divide
- helping people stay connected with each other, when and where they want or need to.

A more connected New Zealand is on its way.

The Rural Connectivity Group

Established in 2017, the RCG is solely focused on building the infrastructure which will deliver connectivity services from New Zealand's three mobile networks - Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees.

Home and Work

Our build plan aims to deliver access to as many people and places as possible. We will cover ~34,000 rural homes but we are aiming for even more!

Mobile Black Spots

Mobile Black Spots are stretches of State Highway where no coverage currently exists - like SH6 on the West Coast and SH1 in the Far North. Over 1000 kilometres of State Highway will gain mobile services, which will improve public safety.

Tourist Hot Spots

At least 100 of the country's top tourist hotspots in remote locations will get connectivity. These new towers will give visitors and tourists an even greater experience of places like Milford Sound and Cape Reinga.

Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees

All three mobile network operators will be able to offer 4G services from the infrastructure, meaning you can choose which network you receive services from.

What is 4G Wireless Broadband?

Wireless broadband is high-speed broadband delivered over the 4G mobile network - rather than through the fixed line copper network. It's quick and easy to install, it's reliable, and it is fast enough to watch the latest online movie releases.

Government and Industry working together

The RCG is using funding from the Government's Rural Broadband Initiative Phase 2 and the Mobile Black Spot programmes, as well as contributions from Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees. By working together, we can all contribute to a successful outcome for a more connected New Zealand.

Built by December 2022

We have an aggressive plan to build over 450 new mobile broadband sites by December 2022. Our first site was built in Haast on the West Coast in May 2018.

Stretching our funds as far as they can go

We plan to continue building as many mobile broadband sites as possible. With the help of rural communities, landowners, local businesses, councils, Iwi, DoC, NZTA, our suppliers and the mobile network operators - we hope to continue building and extend coverage even further!

By working together - we can all contribute to a successful outcome for a connected rural New Zealand.

We are looking for offers of land where we could build new mobile broadband sites - if you think you could help, or just want to have a conversation about the possibility - please don't hesitate to get in touch!

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