



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Paul Goldsmith	<b>Portfolio</b>	Media and Communications
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Lifting the Resilience of Cellular Telecommunications Networks	<b>Date to be published</b>	1 August 2025

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
June 2025	Lifting the Resilience of Cellular Telecommunications Networks	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
24 June 2025	Lifting the Resilience of Cellular Telecommunications Networks EXP-25-MIN-0056 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES / NO**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



# Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Lifting the Resilience of Cellular Telecommunications Networks

**Portfolio**                      **Media and Communications / Emergency Management and Recovery**

On 24 June 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

- 1        **noted** that electricity outages are the single biggest cause of telecommunications outages in emergency events and that extending the duration of battery backup at cellular sites has proven itself an effective and cost-efficient method of lifting telecommunications resilience;
- 2        **noted** that \$6.400 million of 2024/25 funding for connectivity investment associated with the re-planning of the 600 MHz radio spectrum band is available to be reprioritised;
- 3        **agreed** to reprioritise the above funding to lift the resilience of approximately 200 to 250 cellular telecommunications sites by increasing the length of time that cellular sites can operate off batteries to a minimum of 24 hours;
- 4        **agreed** to establish the following new appropriation:

Vote	Appropriation Minister	Appropriation Administrator	Title	Type	Scope
Business, Science and Innovation	Minister for Media and Communications	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Lifting Cellular Telecommunications Resilience	Non-Departmental Output Expense	This appropriation is limited to expenses incurred to lift the resilience of cellular telecommunications networks.

- 5        **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 3 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Business, Science and Innovation Minister for Media and Communications	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & Outyears
Non-Departmental Output Expense: Lifting Cellular Telecommunications Resilience	-	2.400	4.000	-	-

- 6 **agreed** that the appropriation changes in paragraph 5 above be offset by the return of \$6.400 million of funding in the 2024/25 year as outlined in paragraph 2 above;
- 7 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2025/26 above be included in the 2025/26 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 8 **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications to further develop policy matters as necessary, consistent with the policy intent in the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0095.

Sam Moffett  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour (Chair)  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Andrew Hoggard

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Chair  
Officials Committee for EXP