



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Paul Goldsmith	Portfolio	Media and Communications
Title of Cabinet paper	Telecommunications Amendment Bill and Telecommunications and Other Matters Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction	Date to be published	26 November 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
October 2025	Telecommunications Amendment Bill and Telecommunications and Other Matters Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
16 October 2025	Telecommunications Amendment Bill and Telecommunications and Other Matters Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction LEG-25-MIN-0205 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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Some information has been withheld for the reason of Constitutional conventions.



Cabinet Legislation 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.

Telecommunications Amendment Bill and Telecommunications and Other Matters Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio Media and Communications

On 16 October 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

Constitutional conventions

- 2 **noted** that amendments will be made to the Telecommunications Act 2001 (the Act), the Telecommunications (Civil Infringement Notice) Regulations 2007, the Telecommunications (Interception Capability and Security) Act 2013 and the Radiocommunications Act 1989 to ensure the telecommunications regulatory regime continues to support a well-functioning telecommunications market, improves productivity and supports economic growth;
- 3 **noted** that in December 2024, the Cabinet Business Committee agreed to mandate membership in an industry dispute resolution scheme for retail telecommunications service providers with an annual telecommunications revenue over \$10 million [CBC-24-MIN-0124];
- 4 **noted** that the Minister for Media and Communications (the Minister) considers that policy objectives would be better met by setting a higher revenue threshold for when a telecommunications provider must join an industry dispute resolution scheme;
- 5 **agreed to:**
 - 5.1 rescind the reference to the \$10 million annual revenue threshold referred to in paragraph 3 above, and instead;
 - 5.2 mandate membership in an industry dispute resolution scheme for retail telecommunications service providers with an annual telecommunications revenue of over \$50 million;
- 6 **agreed** to amend the Act to create an information-gathering power for the Commerce Commission, so it may determine whether a company meets the \$50 million threshold for mandatory dispute resolution scheme participation;

- 7 **agreed** to amend the Act to create an associated offence for not complying with new information gathering powers, which enables the courts to impose a fine of up to \$100,000 for individuals and up to \$300,000 for non-individuals on conviction;
- 8 **agreed** to amend the Act to ensure that any action taken by the Minister under Part 4B of that Act can apply to under-performing industry dispute resolution schemes only, to account for the potential of multiple schemes;
- 9 **agreed** to amend the Act to expand the matters that can be heard by an industry dispute resolution scheme, enabling complaints about Commerce Commission codes, industry retail service quality codes a provider has signed up to, and general retail service quality matters, to support the emergence of new schemes;
- 10 **agreed** to amend the Act to clarify that having a contracted third-party dispute resolution provider is optional, to support the emergence of new schemes;
- 11 **agreed** to amend the Act to add a statutory function for the Commerce Commission to allow it to undertake roles given to it under local fibre company constitutions that have been approved by the Government Shareholder;
- 12 **approved** the Telecommunications Amendment Bill [PCO 24495/8.0] and the Telecommunications and Other Matters Amendment Bill [PCO 27188/10.0] for introduction;

Constitutional conventions

- 14 **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications to change dates in the commencement clauses of the Bills as necessary prior to introduction;
- 15 **noted** that the Minister for Media and Communications intends to seek agreement from the Parliamentary Business Committee for the Bills to be associated under Standing Order 274(1).

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Office of the Leader of the House