



COVERSHEET

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| Minister | Hon Paul Goldsmith | Portfolio | Media and Communications |
| Title of Cabinet paper | Approach to expiring or unused rights for national mobile services | Date to be published | 30 June 2026 |

List of documents that have been proactively released

| Date | Title | Author |
|-------------|---|---|
| June 2026 | Approach to expiring or unused rights for national mobile services | Office of the Minister for Media and Communications |
| 8 June 2026 | Approach to expiring or unused rights for national mobile services CBC-26-MIN-0028 Minute | Cabinet Office |
| March 2026 | 2300 MHz and 2600 MHz management right review: Targeted Consultation on approaches to allocations | MBIE |

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.



Cabinet Business 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.

National Mobile Services: Approach to Expiring or Unused Rights

Portfolio Media and Communications

On 8 June 2026, the Cabinet Business Committee:

Allocation of new management rights in 2300 MHz and 2660 MHz

- 1 **noted** that rights to use radio spectrum frequencies in the 2300 MHz band (i.e. 2300 MHz to 2395 MHz) and 2600 MHz band (i.e. 2500 MHz to 2690 MHz) are expiring in 2030 and 2028 respectively, and that decisions on the future allocation of these rights need to be taken as soon as possible;
- 2 **agreed** that the desired policy objectives for allocating the 2300 MHz and 2600 MHz spectrum should be:
 - 2.1 spectrum access and investment certainty to maintain connectivity services (particularly to incumbents);
 - 2.2 choice of wireless technologies to meet consumer needs and public benefit;
 - 2.3 efficient use of spectrum;
 - 2.4 competitive industries;
 - 2.5 enabling economic growth;
- 3 **agreed** that:
 - 3.1 new 20-year rights be created and assigned to commercial operators at a price that reflects the commercial value;
 - 3.2 this may include multiple consecutive rights with a shorter duration to implement technical or administrative decisions;
- 4 **agreed** that approximately 70 percent of One NZ and Spark's existing holdings (rounded to the nearest 10 MHz) be renewed to provide investment certainty and service continuity;
- 5 **agreed** that 30 MHz of 2600 MHz spectrum be offered to 2degrees to support effective competition in mobile services, including direct-to-device services;

- 6 **agreed** to set aside:
- 6.1 25 MHz in the 2300 MHz band for Māori, subject to an agreement being reached on the terms of allocation – including payment price;
 - 6.2 up to 20 MHz in the 2300 MHz band for defence purposes as required in specific areas, with conditions and/or shared-use with Spark or other operators where technically feasible;
 - 6.3 2575 MHz to 2620 MHz for non-national use;
- 7 **agreed** that any remaining spectrum in the 2600 MHz band be allocated through a competitive auction process;
- 8 **agreed** that, for 2600 MHz, spectrum offered directly to mobile network operators be priced at 20 percent above the reserve price to support the efficient use of spectrum;
- 9 **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications to make technical and administrative decisions, in line with the policy objectives agreed by Cabinet, to support the allocation of the 2300 MHz and 2600 MHz spectrum (this includes decisions on the distribution of non-national rights, allocation instruments, auction design, pricing mechanics, and design of rights);
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister for Media and Communications to determine the price for spectrum allocations that will generate revenue for the Crown and is in line with the policy objectives referred to in paragraph 2 above;

Reallocation of spectrum in 3400 MHz

- 11 **noted** that 3400 MHz to 3460 MHz was held for national 5G services, but currently remains unused and held under a Crown Management Right;
- 12 **noted** that the Minister for Media and Communications intends to direct the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to undertake consultation on the future use of 3400 MHz to 3460 MHz by non-national use by wireless service providers and private networks and/or national mobile use;
- 13 **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications to determine the future use of 3400 MHz to 3460 MHz, including whether this spectrum is allocated on a national or non-national basis.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)
Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston

Officials present from:

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment