



COMMERCE COMMISSION

15 August 2008

Dear Interested Party,

### **International Roaming**

I have recently been in discussion with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission about the possibility of a joint inquiry into trans-Tasman mobile roaming rates. There may be opportunities for the two agencies to explore bilateral regulatory cooperation in relation to this issue, which has significant implications for consumers in both countries. As you may be aware, the potential for such cooperation was enhanced by the recent agreement between the Commission and the ACCC in July last year.<sup>1</sup>

The discussions have taken place in the context of an inquiry into international mobile roaming being conducted by the Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee on Communications. A KPMG report, commissioned by the Australian Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, has highlighted concerns about excessive international mobile roaming charges. The report concludes, among other findings, that technical studies have concluded that mobile roaming retail margins are very high.

The Commerce Commission has yet to commence any formal review, but is likely to be seeking additional information from the industry about this issue. The Commission will advise the industry as further developments occur in this area.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Ross Patterson  
Telecommunications Commissioner

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<sup>1</sup> Refer to <http://www.comcom.govt.nz/TheCommission/InternationalAgreements/australia.aspx>