



COMMERCE COMMISSION

Study on Numbering Management: Terms of Reference

Background

1. Newcall Communications Ltd, Teamtalk Ltd, Telecom New Zealand Ltd, Telstra New Zealand Ltd and Vodafone New Zealand Ltd entered into a Number Administration Deed (NAD) on 15 December 1998, as a self regulatory code for telecommunications numbering administration. The Commission granted authorisation for the NAD on 17 May 1999.
2. The parties to the NAD are currently reviewing the numbering plan, allocation rules and numbering principles. Furthermore, a joint Telecommunication Carriers' Forum (TCF)/NAD working party is reviewing the governance and management arrangements for numbering in New Zealand. The Commission recognises that these initiatives are timely, in view of the time that has passed since the NAD was signed, and in particular the changes in market conditions and technology since that time.
3. The Commission considers it timely for the Commission to review international best practice in numbering administration, and to compare best practice with the current NAD arrangement.
4. This study is conducted under Section 9A of the Telecommunications Act 2001 which empowers the Commission to conduct among other things, studies including international benchmarking into any matter relating to the telecommunications industry or the long term benefit of end-users of telecommunications services within New Zealand.
5. This paper sets out the terms of reference for the numbering management study.

Overall Approach

6. The Commission's approach in conducting this study will be:
 - i. Analysis and Research
 - a. an analysis of the international practice with particular emphasis on OECD countries

- b. identification of international best practice
- c. a comparison of existing NAD principles with those international best practice principles

ii. Consultation

Consultation will be undertaken with NAD parties, the TCF, other industry players and consumer groups. The Commission expects such consultations to be carried out with relatively little formality.

iii. Report and Recommendations

Preparation of a report illustrating international best practice in number management and potential application of those principles in New Zealand.

Scope and Purpose of Review

- 7. The study will identify international best practice for numbering management, and compare this with New Zealand's numbering scheme.
- 8. The Commission will have regard to these objectives which are inherent in numbering frameworks:
 - a. availability and rights to numbers;
 - b. competition and innovation;
 - c. technological advancement;
 - d. consumer interests and protection;
 - e. clarity over categorisation and use of numbers in the NGN environment
 - f. VOIP numbering
 - g. enforcement principles
- 9. The Commission notes that there is work being undertaken in some of these areas by the NAD and TCF and the study will have regard to work done by these groups.

Timing and Process

- 10. Review to commence: 9 June 2008
- 11. Commission to produce a discussion paper on best practice compared with the current New Zealand regime: 8 August 2008
- 12. Commission to consult with relevant parties: 11 August to 1 September 2008
- 13. Commission to deliver final report: 29 September 2008

Dated:

Dr Ross Patterson
Telecommunications Commissioner