



CHRISTCHURCH

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Office of the Mayor

12 September 2003

17 SEP 2003

Douglas Webb
Telecommunications Commissioner
Commerce Commission
P O Box 2351
WELLINGTON

Dear Douglas

Extending the benefits of broadband through local loop unbundling

I write in anticipation of your upcoming draft recommendation on local loop unbundling and access to the public data network, which is a matter of great importance to the future economic growth of this city.

In Christchurch we have had a taste of what competition brings, and are keen for more. As Mayor of a city where many citizens enjoy a choice of broadband provider, a wider range of telecommunications services and lower prices I encourage regulation that vigorously supports open telecommunications competition throughout New Zealand.

As Chair of the Local Government Metropolitan Mayoral Forum and Mayors Taskforce for Jobs I am deeply concerned at the inequity between cities. Until all New Zealanders have access to competitive broadband services from work and home, regardless of location, we will not begin to see the economic benefits enjoyed by other nations.

In Christchurch we have a vision of becoming a 'data port'; a city of connected people doing business from home or the office via broadband. Local loop unbundling is a critical step in that vision because a citizen's ability to contribute should not be hampered by the absence of a competing network in their street.

I am encouraged by your recent decision to take a wider view of network issues, which can only help to bring the benefits of unbundling to consumers more quickly.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any information on how Christchurch's experience of competitive broadband can assist your inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Garry Moore
MAYOR