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STOCK EXCHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

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Chorus welcomes next steps in Government's telecommunications review

Chorus has today welcomed the release of the Government's options paper seeking views on the next level of detail for a new regulatory framework for regulating fixed line communications services from 2020.

"Today's proposals from the Government represent another step towards enabling better broadband into New Zealand homes, schools and businesses as essential infrastructure supporting positive social and economic outcomes for New Zealanders" said Chorus General Counsel Vanessa Oakley.

The Government's options paper builds on its April Policy Statement, including:

- Moving to a utility-style model for regulating both fixed-line copper and fibre wholesale access services;
- Anchor products for basic voice and basic broadband, alongside commercial products within minimum requirements; and
- Retaining the current fibre unbundling requirements on the UFB network from 2020 and removing copper unbundling from 2020.

"It is pleasing to see that the Government's timetable indicates that a more fit for purpose regime can be put in place by 2020, with legislation to be passed in 2017, and that the options paper seeks comments on a stable and efficient transition" said Chorus General Counsel Vanessa Oakley.

Chorus looks forward to engaging in this next stage of the process and will be providing a comprehensive submission by 19 August 2016.

The full options paper is available at: www.mbie.govt.nz/telcoreview

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