

MARKET RELEASE**12 July 2016****Spark New Zealand welcomes Telco Act review**

Spark New Zealand welcomes the Government's early guidance and consultation on the regulation of the telecommunications sector from 2020 onward.

Spark's General Manager Regulation, John Wesley-Smith, said, "We see this as another step towards the provision of certainty to the industry, and, ultimately, ensuring that New Zealand telecommunications regulation is fit for purpose in the digital age and will support investment and innovation as well as a healthy, competitive market for the benefit of consumers. We are especially pleased to see the importance of network quality regulation recognised in the paper, considering the high level of consumer and industry frustration we are seeing in the current model."

The policy decisions will set the framework for the Telecommunications Act which will determine how the industry will be regulated post 2020. In particular, it will determine how much the wholesale companies who own the fibre and copper lines networks can charge broadband retailers like Spark to provide services across their networks.

For full information on the Government announcement see www.mbie.govt.nz/telcoreview

-ENDS-

For media queries, please contact:

Richard Llewellyn

Head of Corporate Communications +64 (0) 27 523 2362

For investor relations queries, please contact:

Stefan Knight

General Manager Finance and Business Performance +64 (0) 27 252 9438