

13 November 2009

Hon. Steven Joyce  
Minister of Communications and Information  
Technology  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington



**Via email**

Dear Mr Joyce

### **Standards for Ultra-Fast Broadband**

In response to the Ultra-Fast Broadband Initiative: Invitation to Participate released last month, I am writing to urge that you review the progress on, and timeline for, the development of standards for the proposed Local Fibre Companies (LFC's).

As pointed out in our submission in October, a critical success factor for the UFB project is that retailers can economically connect and use the services that are built.

The standards required are complex, they take time to develop and they are on the critical path for the UFB project. They impact on:

1. the LFC's ability to sign binding obligations with Crown Fibre Holdings (CFH), as the standards need to form an appendix to the agreement with CFH; and
2. the LFC's lead time between investing and connecting customers, as this will be dictated by whether their services can easily be connected into the systems of the retailers.

As you will appreciate my members are continually investing in improvements to their business and operational support systems and their networks. The lack of a timely co-ordinated approach to the development of standards in this area will lead to wasted capital and inefficient use of resources, and is likely to mean a delay in customer connections. The timing of LFC investments and the development of the standards need to be aligned to prevent further delay and unnecessary cost increases.

As yet the TIG is unaware of any initiatives underway to work with industry to develop these standards. Can you please let me know if there is anything we can do to expedite this process?

If you have any queries in relation to this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Spray", with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

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cc Bruce Parkes, MED