## **Tasman Global Access**

Caitlin Metz and Justin Rae July 2014

## What is TGA?



- Telecom, Vodafone and Telstra announced in February 2013 a nonbinding memorandum of understanding (MoU) to co-invest in the construction of a new submarine cable between Auckland and Sydney.
- The new cable will significantly improve New Zealand's international telecommunications connectivity as well as strengthen links into fast-growing Asian markets.
- This investment reflects the growing importance of trans-Tasman internet traffic and demand from corporate customers for route diversity: around 40% of both Telecom and Vodafone's international internet traffic is now Australia to New Zealand, versus just 10% in 2000.
- The Tasman Global Access cable will also enable New Zealand to better leverage the four additional international cable systems currently serving Australia, providing important redundancy for New Zealand.

## **Telecommunications submarine cables**



- 95 per cent of international communications traffic is routed via submarine fibre-optic cables.
- Data and voice transfer via these cables is not only cheaper, but also much quicker than via satellite.
- The first submarine cable a copper-based telegraph cable was laid across the Channel between the United Kingdom and France in 1850.
- Today, more than a million kilometres of state-of-the-art submarine fibre-optic cables span the oceans, connecting continents, islands and countries around the world.
- Arguably, the international submarine cable network provides one of the most important infrastructural foundations for the development of whole societies and nations within a truly global economy.

## NZ international submarine cables



- Southern Cross Cable the cable is owned by Telecom New Zealand (50.01%), SingTel (39.99%) and Verizon Business (10.00%).
- Tasman 2 owned by Telecom and Telstra this cable is likely to cease operation on its next failure – obsolescent system at "end of life".
- Only one international cable system (Southern Cross cable) provides all the current internet access.
- NZ is at risk with just one cable system providing trans-Tasman and trans-Pacific connectivity.
- A second transTasman cable will provide low latency, high capacity path between NZ and Australia which will result in better pricing and cheaper international internet access.
- This project has very low environmental impact whilst delivering limitless opportunities for all of NZ.
- The cable will incorporate two fibre pairs with a current design capacity of 20 terabits per second several hundred times the current internet data demand out of New Zealand.



## **TGA Nominal Route**

Bathymetry Source: NZ 250m gridded bathymetric data set and imagery, CANZ (2008).



#### Legend

- Yellow Unarmoured
- Brown- Armoured
- Green buried from the 1500m contour (approximately 150 kms off shore) to the cable landing station

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## Why Raglan and when?



- Raglan already has critical infrastructure that can be utilised in the new project to provide connectivity for the TGA consortium between Sydney and Raglan.
- New Zealand will then benefit by using the existing Aqualink cable thus maximising existing infrastructure as much as possible and by keeping the impacts as minimal as possible.
- The TGA cable needs to be separate from the Southern Cross cable that lands at Muriwai to ensure there is separation of the cables for reasons of redundancy.
- The project is currently in feasibility stage with business case approval expected in September 2014.
- The consortium would like to develop the project; Cable Landing Station built – Summer 2014 – Winter 2015 Civil work at Ngarunui Beach & Wainui Reserve - Autumn 2015 Cable haul and beach landing – Spring 2015
- Project completion 31 March 2016

## Cable Route – Beach to Cable Landing Station



#### Cable Route – Ngarunui Beach

Proposed TGA Cable Location Buried to 1 metre until 150km off shore

Aqualink cable

Proposed TGA Cable Location Buried to 3 metres starting at the beach

Image © 2014 CNES / Astrium beach manhole Location



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## **Beach Man Hole**

- Existing man hole internal dimension is
  1.2m \* 1.2m Wide \* 0.9m High
- Dual lid and brace, roadway strength construction above the mean high water spring mark
- Replace existing man hole with internal dimension
  3m Wide \* 2m Deep \* 2m High
- New lid and brace, three 1.2m\*0.6m, Aluminium lids with supports, of roadway strength construction
- All still above the mean high water spring mark







## Methodology/Sequence of laying cable and burying cable



- **Cable Route Study** selection of a safe and economic route for the cable.
- **Cable Route Survey** marine/scientific survey of the route. The route is finalised to avoid sensitive marine environments.
- **Burial Assessment Survey** where plough burial is planned and in water depths up to 1500m.
- **Route Clearance Operations** conducted prior to the laying and burial operations along those sections of the route where burial is to be performed.
- Cable Lay and Plough Burial The objective is to install the cable as close as possible to the planned route. The cable will be buried to a target depth of 1 metre as defined in the Route Engineering Report (burial plan).
- Post Lay Inspection and Burial (PLIB) performed in a % of the planned plough buried areas.

Cable Laying Video

## **Permitting Requirements**



#### Outside NZ Economic Exclusion Zone

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) Cable laid on the seabed

 NZ Economic Exclusion Zone - 200NM to 12NM Environmental Protection Authority Cable buried from the 1500m contour approximately 150 kms

# 12 NM to Beach Man Hole (BMH) Waikato Regional Council Cable buried all the way to the beach man hole

### • BMH (Ngarunui Beach) to Cable Landing Station

Waikato District Council Easements in place for current Aqualink cable will cover the TGA activity required through Wainui Reserve.

- TGA will not be applying for any cable protection zones in New Zealand (as per Aqualink).
- Vodafone are committed to engaging with all appropriate parties to achieve a high level of understanding about the national significance of this project and the benefits to NZ.

## **Questions**



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