



**Rural  
Women**  
NEW ZEALAND

21<sup>st</sup> April 2008

Mr Ralph Chivers  
Chief Executive  
Telecommunication Carriers Forum  
P O Box 302469  
North Harbour  
Auckland

Dear Sir

**Feedback on the TCF Report on the TSO for Local Service**

Rural Women New Zealand ("RWNZ") is the leading rural women's organisation in New Zealand. RWNZ represents the interests of over 4000 members from more than 300 branches from North Cape to the Bluff. Since 1925 we have been providing rural women with a national voice on rural issues and a local framework for social and educational opportunities.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to comment on the Draft TSO Report and its various principles.

It is the right of all New Zealanders to fully participate in society as noted in the *1979 Royal Commission on Social Policy*. We commend the report for ensuring that its key objective is social inclusion.

However in our submission to the Ministry of Economic Development in October 2007 we stated that RWNZ strongly supports the view that broadband access for rural New Zealanders should be part of the TSO requirements, with providers selected on a contestable basis.

We strongly maintain that the TSO should be amended to include the right for all householders no matter where they are located to have fair

reasonable access (cost and service) to broadband. We feel that this should not be left to the market and the differing technologies to work it out. Our recommendation is that TCF takes a lead on this.

Overall we commend the proposed approach of the report and wish to offer our support to the recommended way forward.

Yours sincerely

Noeline Holt  
Executive Officer