



Rural Connectivity Group

29 August 2019 – Kaipara District Council

About the RCG



- The Rural Connectivity Group established in 2017 will build the 4G broadband and mobile infrastructure required under RBI2 and MBS funds.
- RCG is wholly owned by Spark, Vodafone and 2degrees.
- The infrastructure we build will be shared by NZ's mobile network operators – Spark, Vodafone, 2degrees.
- WISPs are encouraged to utilise the infrastructure also.
- We report to Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) to ensure our work meets the government targets.
- CIP manage the funds provided by the RBI2 policy and Spark, Vodafone, 2degrees are also contributing capital.
- This unique funding model is an innovative way of providing further critical connectivity into rural NZ.
- Industry collaboration will see NZ as the first country in the world where all MNO's will share RAN and antenna on each tower.

Rural Broadband Initiative phase two (RBI2) and Mobile Black Spots Fund (MBSF)

Increased connectivity in the regions

- High-speed broadband to eligible rural end-users
- Similar level of broadband access across all regions
- Mobile services to support safety on state highways and to enhance visitor experience at key tourist destinations

Funding

- \$290 million (\$180 million from Telecomms Development Levy, \$110 million from UFB returned funds)
- A further \$100M recently announced
- RCG receives \$150M and \$75M from Spark, Vodafone, 2degrees

Target

- RBI2 targeted at end-users with less than 20 Mbps across all regions
- MBSF mobile coverage targeted at areas identified as having 'black spots' (no coverage from any operator)
- State highways and tourist sites in scope



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What will RCG deliver?

- **Secure and build over 400 new sites operating with 4G network**
~ 34,000 rural households covered
- **Build a further 54 new 4G sites**
~ 2500 more households covered
- **100 Tourist locations provided with connectivity**
- **1000 kms of State Highways with mobile service**
- **A wholesale backhaul & co-location service**
- **Operate and maintain the new network**
- **Finish the build programme by 2022 for \$225M**
- **Expansion programme is 80 further sites on a case by case basis – finished 2023**

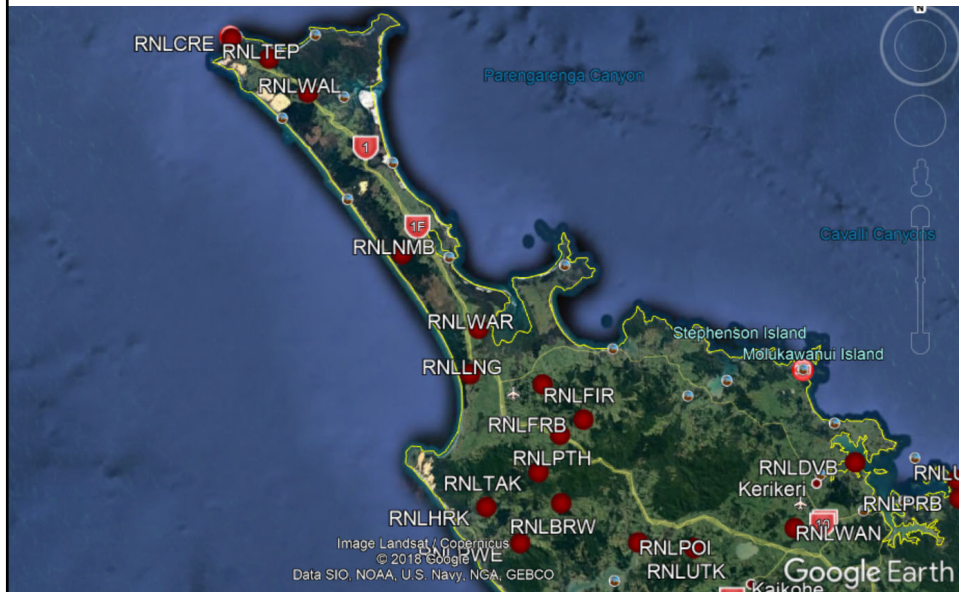


RCG Key Drivers

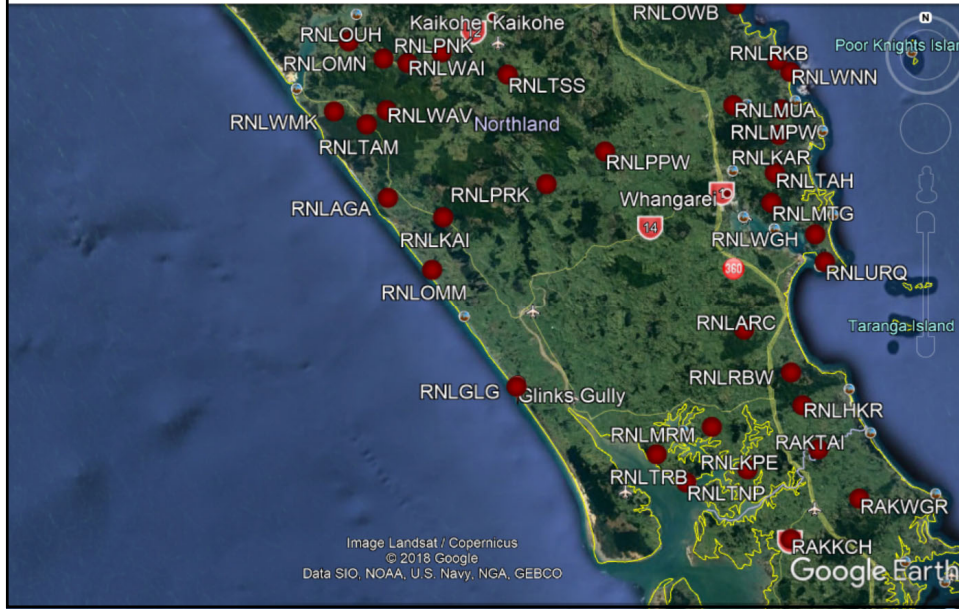
- Innovation across all aspects of our operation
- Collaboration with all who can contribute – especially with regard to land, existing infrastructure, backhaul, power
- Easy to do business with – for WISP's and others - wholesale and co-location services
- Total lowest cost of ownership
- To stretch the funding as far as it can go



Proposed Sites



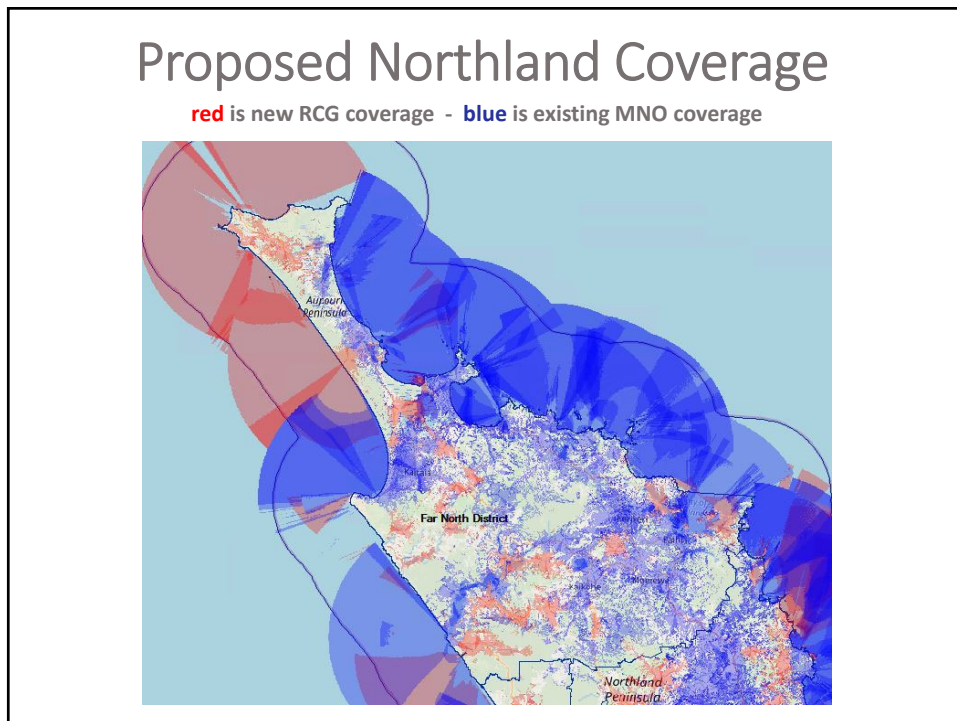
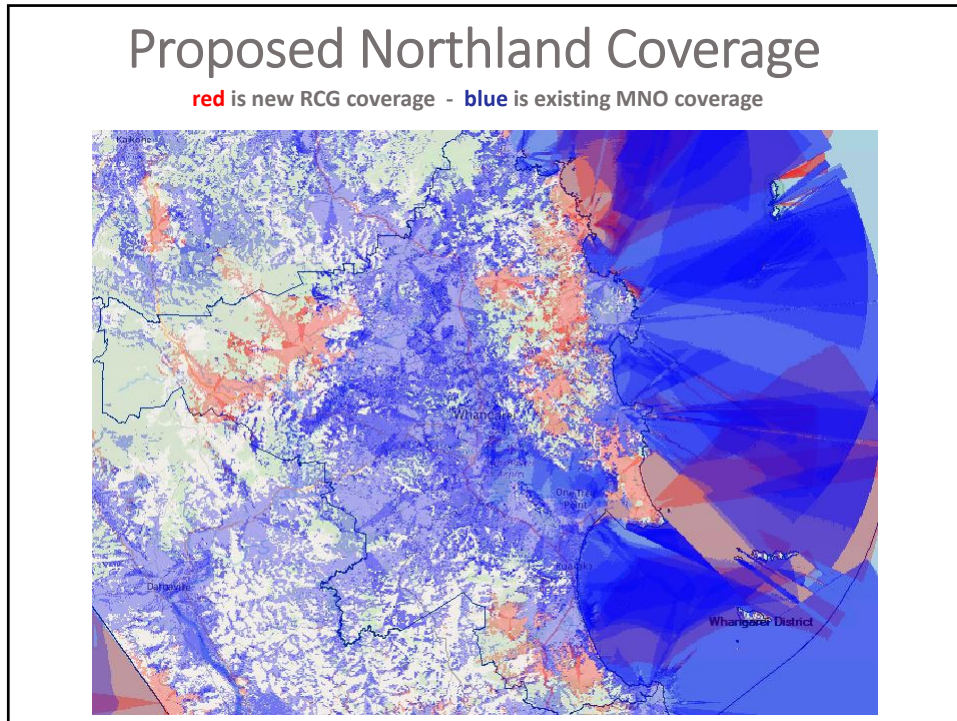
Proposed Sites



Proposed Kaipara DC Sites

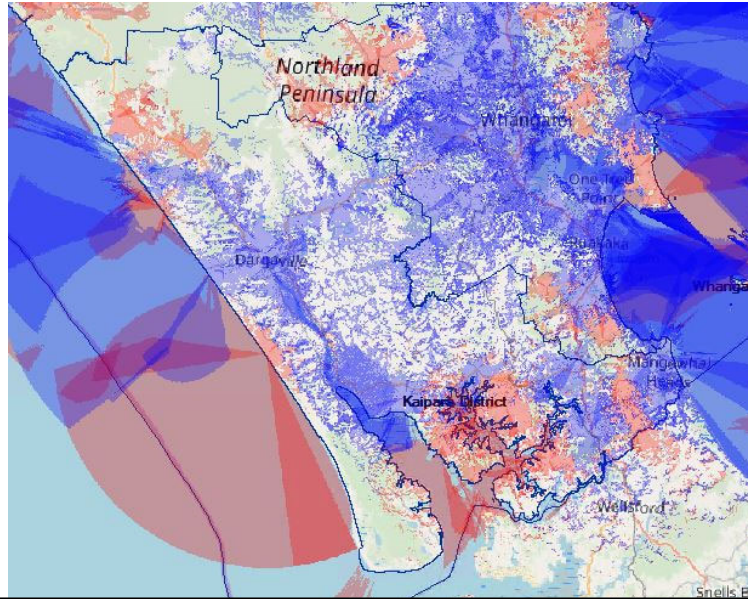


Glinks Gully	Council lease
Kaipara East	Right to build
Marohemo	Right to build
Whakapirau	Right to build
Aranga	Built
Omamari	In negotiation
Tinopai	In negotiation
Te Ruruku Bay	Lease
Kaihu	Built
Hakaru	negotiation



Proposed Northland Coverage

red is new RCG coverage - blue is existing MNO coverage



Kia ora koutou – patai?



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