

# Tennyson Inlet Broadband

- Our community faces on-going issues and decreasing ability to access the internet. We are one of 290 national rural communities and an estimated 19 locally with severely restricted communication.
- A recent Chorus upgrade of our equipment has left us with degraded performance, rendering our internet not fit for purpose.
- We fail or struggle attend online meetings, download emails & files and home school children. Even basic internet browsing, banking and online shopping is a challenge

## Community Profile

- The legacy communication system services approx.100 of the approx.160 properties.
- The local community includes Farmers (Agriculture & Aquaculture), Forestry, Accountants, Managers/owners of national & international businesses, healthcare workers, media, and volunteers that support charities of vulnerable people and conversation projects.
- Some have won awards both locally, nationally and internationally for their efforts.

## Technology Options

- Mobile coverage is not available to us
- Satellite is available but not suitable for business applications
- Rural Connectivity Group (RCG) were scheduled to provide mobile coverage by June 2020. This month they pushed this date out 18 months further to end 2021.
- It is a significant risk RCG won't make it here at all. Meantime, the possibility of an RCG solution is discouraging investment by both Wireless Internet Service Providers (WISPs) and Chorus.

## Benefits

- School children can complete online school, homework and keep connected with their friends in the manner they are used to. By proximity this encourages participation in outdoor recreational activities and widening education on our natural environment.
- Allowing business owners like Christian Muche on OneNews 29/4/20 ([see note below](#)), to bring the economic benefits back to Marlborough. A great example of a re-think of digital transformation and a demonstratable 'quick win' that spurs further investment and innovation.
- Alternative means of communication in an emergency (example New Year 2018/19 phone and internet down (30-minute delay in calling rescue helicopter via VHF radio))
- Industries and professionals are productive and actively contributing to our economy.
- Other infrastructure projects in this area, such as pest control, water supply quality, are enabled

- Given the uncertainty of a Covid-19 vaccine in future, having access to the internet will allow remote working and home schooling to maintain or boost the Marlborough economy.
- MDC can scale and use the collaborative solution across the region.

#### Proposed solution

- Either a minor upgrade to the Chorus technology in our area + a WISP solution, OR a WISP-alone solution. Both require little investment by the providers.
- If funded by Crown Infrastructure Partners, or a rates/provider loan it is both economical and timely compared to what we are waiting a long time for
- Est. circa \$15K upwards depending on the technology and cost/benefit.

#### Decision Sort

- MDC has the local knowledge and local and national relationships to make the right solution happen for our area.
- Our community includes those with the technical expertise to support this (if needed) and ability to organise ourselves.
- We are asking MDC for control and oversight on delivering the right technology to Tennyson Inlet, taking an active role to allow for and manage investment and allow Marlborough's recovery from Covid-19.

From Tennyson Inlet Ratepayer, Christian Muche <https://wunderguard.com/>:

*"Since I've moved with my family to New Zealand nearly 14 years ago, I am running an international business out of New Zealand with a very diverse and decentralized company, team as well as client structure around the world. This digital marketing consulting and event business requires a permanent, stable broadband connectivity using cloud-based services and extensive communication platform like video chats, webinar solutions or conferencing services. New Zealand as my home base is therefore well represented to my global audience and allows me to do some of my work load from home. A permanent move with my family to the Tennyson Inlet is prevented by the very poor connectivity in this whole Marlborough region which doesn't allow a proper internet usage at all.*

*I can see a huge impact for the region as soon as a broadband coverage would be available for households not just for my business and my personal family situation but also would Marlborough as well as New Zealand make far more efficient and support the "new work standards" with a further impact to the economic support of many smaller and regional businesses."*