

# Exploring Digital Convergence

## Issues for Policy and Legislation

This brochure gives a snapshot of the issues and some key questions. You can view the full discussion document and give your views online at [www.convergencediscussion.nz](http://www.convergencediscussion.nz) or contact us directly at [convergence@mch.govt.nz](mailto:convergence@mch.govt.nz). Submissions close on 16 October 2015.

## What is convergence?

Convergence describes the reduction in barriers between sectors, so that businesses have new opportunities and consumers have increased choice and accessibility.

The nature of how New Zealanders communicate, do business, and access information and entertainment is changing rapidly in the contemporary digital environment. We can now make calls, send emails, and access content such as music and television on a single device, at any time, from almost anywhere. We expect reliable, always-on connectivity, at home, at work and on the move.

The telecommunications, broadcasting, information technology, and entertainment sectors are adapting to these changes, and to the new technologies which facilitate them.

We want to ensure New Zealand's legislation and policy recognise these developments, and encourage innovation while protecting the rights of New Zealanders.



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# The cross-government work programme

The Government has initiated a work programme to ensure our regulatory systems remain healthy and responsive in a converged world.

This requires a thorough understanding of the overall system, and collaboration across government and industry. The work programme initially comprises:

- A review of the regulatory framework for content classification led by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage
- A review of the regulatory framework for telecommunications and radio spectrum led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- Developing the infrastructure needed to support convergence, led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- A refresh of the Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan, led by the National Cyber Policy Office within the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- A review of the applicability of GST to cross border services and intangibles, led by the Inland Revenue Department
- A study of the creative sector use of the copyright and designs regimes, led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- The Data Futures Partnership led by the Treasury, Statistics New Zealand, and the Ministry of Justice.

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This document is a road map for navigating this cross-government work programme. It explains how you can be involved in bringing our regulation up to date, and invites your feedback on the work currently under way. Acknowledging that convergence means different things for businesses, consumers, and policy makers, the document also seeks your views on how convergence impacts you.

We welcome your views in response to the following questions:

- 1 Do New Zealand's current regulations and policies need to change to account for convergence? Why/why not?
- 2 Should the Government be doing anything else to address convergence?
- 3 What barriers are you aware of that prevent you from benefiting from, or responding to, convergence?

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