

# LANDLINE SUBMISSIONS

**Ed note: This document contains a selection of quotes from individuals and organisations that made submissions on the Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Bill in favour of maintaining New Zealand's copper landline phone system.**

*Please note that there are many more submissions from the public available on the Parliamentary website. Those that are included on this document are a selection only. Some of the quotes have had minimal editing to correct typos.*

*Due to the fact that many of the submissions from members of the public were not posted on the Parliamentary website until **after** the bill was reported to the House on May 4, some of the most compelling submissions are NOT included in this document.*

**All of the submissions on the bill may be read at the following link:**

[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_74818/tab/submissionsandadvice](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_74818/tab/submissionsandadvice)

## **Adair Bruce**

“We lost all internet based on the fact that we have NBN and we’ve lost home phones.” A comment made by one of the Melbourne victims of the recent 15 hour blackouts. This is exactly what New Zealand needs to avoid. For the elderly, young children, those compromised in health the standard landline communication for those who choose it is vitally important to retain.

## **Advisors to the International EMF Scientist Appeal to the UN Campaign**

**E. Kelley** Director of the International EMF Scientist Appeal campaign to the United Nations that is currently signed by 236 scientists from 41 nations, all of whom have published EMF papers that report biological and health effects far below current EMF safety limits ([www.emfscientist.org](http://www.emfscientist.org))

Cites US National Toxicology Program (2016) which found that cellphone radiation causes brain and heart tumours; and the California State Health Department safety guidance (2017) which links high use of cell phones with brain cancer, tumours of the acoustic nerve, lower sperm count with decreased motility, headaches, effects on learning and memory, hearing, behaviour and sleep.

“There is growing evidence that supports the application of precautionary measures to offer greater human health protection from chronic exposure to wireless communications technologies. Dropping copper landlines would be going in the opposite direction and is ill advised.”

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## Alexander Campbell

I do NOT support any move to phase out copper landline services. This deprives New Zealand of a safe alternative communication system. It also continues a policy to disregard the health and wellbeing of the people of New Zealand by ignoring the serious health implications associated with EMF radiation. I have attached a file in support of my position.

## Alison Denning

If copper wire phone service is eliminated there will be some in the population that will be unable, for serious health reasons, to have internet phone or wireless phone service. These are the most vulnerable in the population. ... Currently the majority of EMF sensitive individuals find that copper land line phone service is well tolerated. This option should remain available. / As a person with increasing EMF sensitivity I find that wireless technology is making me more and more isolated. My copper land line phone is my link to friends, family and the outside world.

## Amanda Dennis

“I am an educator, and this idea has not been thought about for long enough.”

## Amanda Hookham-Kraft

I have children and want to ensure that I maintain access to a reliable copper landline service so that you can have a safe corded landline phone in your home for their use I am a business owner who wants to help meet obligations to workers to provide a safe working environment by having safe copper corded phones available for their use on your premises. [*Wishes to be heard.*]

## Angela Page

**Comments:** Taking away landlines is short sighted, limiting and renders you easy peasy for hacking. Not only that it is unfair to the elderly and those who are adversely affected by wireless related health issues.

### **Recommendations:**

Give options. To only give wi fi options does a disservice to those I mention above. [**Ed note:** Please see this link which demonstrates that Spark wants to move many customers who currently have a safe hard-wired internet connection thanks to the copper landline system to wireless internet even in areas where fibre is available. (See: <https://www.computerworld.co.nz/article/609604/spark-abandon-copper-fibre-wireless-broadband/> )]

Be a worldwide leader and have the safer landline intact.

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## **Angie Carlyle**

Fibre Optic relies on power so if the power is out so is the phone service. I have fibre internet and consistently and on regular near daily basis at some point of the day the fibre drops out for various reasons. When having a conversation with friends that have moved to fibre for their phones, they sound distant, fractured, and have a consistent beep scream in my ear every so many seconds, so the phone conversation is never pleasant experience. Recently we had an elderly mother-in-law stay that needed an emergency help button, these systems only work over the copper land lines and it played an important part in assisting us to care for her in our home. Had we not had a copper land line this would not have been possible. I believe that the copper phone lines should be kept indefinitely for solely phone use, move the internet onto the fibre optic lines, that way if households don't want to use, or are unable to use the new technology the old is still there and available in its safe reliable way.

## **Anne and Martin Gastinger**

*Cite Austrian Medical Association guidelines for diagnostic and treatment of EHS (2012) updated by European Academy for Environmental Medicine (2016).*

“For those unable to use cellphones and (DECT) cordless phones, analogue phones provide a means of commerce and social connection in a society which they are unable to fully access due to the proliferation of WiFi in social spaces, shops, medical and educational services and facilities.

## **Annemarie Weibel**

Wireless is damaging to the health of plants, animals and people and if it passes will encourage other countries to follow. Please refrain! Think of 7 generations later. Please refrain!

## **Annie Gibbons**

Since I suffer from electromagnetic hypersensitivity, and have had to move 11 times in 5 years to escape wifi, and cell tower radiation, which is microwave radiation, I must protest what your country is proposing to do, by getting rid of your land lines, and making wireless phone transmission the only form of internet and phone access available to the public ! The information for the health effects of wireless technology has not kept up with the speed of its usage world wide. There is now a great deal of evidence that thyroid issues, and brain tumors, especially in children are some of the myriad bad health affects of this technology.

*Cites Magda Havas studies on IQ.*

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My own suffering and loss, are real, and I know from first hand experience that living outside of this radiation, is the only way for me to stay well! Wake up, don't ruin your beautiful country, and the health of your citizens!

**Recommendations:** Please study the thousands of health submissions requesting similar reduction of this technology world wide! Please look more deeply into the scientific studies on the effects of microwave technology. And don't just accept those studies done by the cell phone industry.

## **Anthea Ward**

I employ labour in my farming business which is hill country farming. As well as for ourselves, in order for them to live in places like this we need to assure staff and their families of reliable telephone services to provide security in case of emergencies as in health, accident, fire and flood.

During the storm we experienced here just last night there was a power outage from 9p.m. until 6a.m. this morning. No cell phone coverage. We were fortunate we had the copper wire phone attached to the wall and could make outside communication. We had the same situation on Jan 5th/6th 2018 when the huge storm hit the Peninsula especially the Thames Coast. There was another such situation two weeks ago when there was a power break down in a substation at Tirau, all power was out from there north to the tip of the Coromandel Peninsula for many hours, most of the day.

In June 2014 we experienced massive flooding which tore all amenities out, copper wire included. The copper wire service was restored over night by dedicated technicians but cell phone towers remained out of commission for days and the cell phone service to our area was only intermittent for two weeks.

IT gadgetry is not up to a sufficiently high standard yet to replace the fixed, copper wire system.

I wish to be heard.

## **Anthony James Read**

Some people with health issues can not use Cell Phones, as they can use Land Lines. I am one of these people. ... If I do get a call on the Cell Phone after about 12 or 15 minutes, I get mild dizziness, the longer the call the worse it gets. It continues for up to 30 minutes after using the phone. ... I know others who can't use the Cell Phone at all, as they have really bad reactions to them.

## **Antony Weller**

I oppose any change to NZs telecommunications regulations that could mean that people who live in areas where fibre optic infrastructure has been installed would

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lose access to a safe and reliable copper cable based landline phone line and internet access service. My reasons are many, but include the fact that New Zealanders have the right to retain a back up system that is proven safe, whereas the modern technology has many possible health effects that still need to be researched.

## **Barbara Cullen**

A corded landline phone may be safely used by almost everyone including most individuals who are electrosensitive who cannot tolerate the microwave radiation from cordless or cellular phones. (Some people who are electrosensitive may not be able to tolerate electromagnetic fields produced by computers or computer screens so having a safe corded phone is particularly important to the community of people who are electrosensitive.)

## **Bianca Macneill**

*[many well aware of misinformation by corporations with bottomless pockets:]*  
“It is distressing when big business skew figures to try and prove no harm. If it is in big business’s best interest the cost to human health always gets cast aside until it’s too late.”

## **Bryce Jensen**

I seem to notice a very major assumption in the draft bill. That is that any and all “modern” technology is to be embraced. All “old” technology is to be dumped as unproductive and out of date. However, I disagree with this assumption. ... The so-called “old or redundant” tech can and often does work better in a natural disaster or emergency situation. ... So, I urge those considering this legislation. Consider more than just perks and bonuses of the job. ...

I am trying to figure out what is driving much of this. How much of it is assumption or emotion-driven thinking.

New Zealand government is committing all ISPs and product vendors into this. What is the real cost of roll-out of fibre across our lovely country, New Zealand. What fall-back options will be allowed to remain, in case of unexpected circumstances? ... As we look to the future. It is excellent that we are thinking of ways to do things better, faster, more reliably. But we must not throw out the technological baby with the bathwater.

## **C Davis**

I oppose any change to NZs telecommunications regulations that could mean that people who live in areas where fibre optic infrastructure has been installed would lose access to a safe and reliable copper cable based landline phone line and internet access service My reasons are listed below: 1. My mother, a pensioner, cannot afford

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to pay for broadband or a cellphone and relies solely on the landline to communicate with the outside world. Her area has fibre optic infrastructure. 2. We live in a rural area where the power is not reliable. Whenever we have a power cut the landline is our only means of communication is the landline. Our cellphones only last as long as the battery live attached to the tower. No generators. With no power we have no broadband.

## **Carmen Scherrer**

*Cites 2010 US study linking increase of suicides among teens with cell phone use.*  
There are many, numerous, health effects that Electromagnetic radiation causes. My health has been severely affected to the point of that I can no longer work and I have a very limited social life.

## **Carolyn Canning**

A segment of your population greatly values analogue phone service for reasons of health and well being; privacy and security in the event of power outage and/or global cosmic radiation interference. Please respect the views and priorities expressed by those who wish to continue to use analogue telephone service and please do not take steps to amplify the societal exclusion experienced by the segment of your population who choose to prioritize issues of health, wellbeing, privacy and safety over widespread micro-wave radiation coverage and transmissions.

## **Carolyn McKenzie and Mischele Rhodes**

(Patients' Rights Advocacy Waikato Inc. - an incorporated society)

“As advocated for Patients' Rights Advocacy Waikato Inc. we have talked to many people at numerous health expos to hear how their health has been ruined with over exposure of frequencies (EMFs) from wireless devices.”

“The elderly, disable and the infirm are at a disadvantage when it comes [to] the use of cellphones and the fact that they could lose the use of a landline will cause a large sector of the community to be distressed causing an upsurge in psychological harm. Landlines are a source of security and are a lifeline to many New Zealanders.”

“We do not want to see the corporate interests and ‘push’ for business with cellphones and similar technology override any common sense involving health issues that this new technology creates.... Lastly, we do not want to see new technology taking our choices away.”

## **Cassandra Dodds**

“Many natural disasters take out power which makes all but copper land line phones obsolete.”

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“As a family with multiple health issues we have gone to great lengths to minimise any potential risks to our health...”

“...until such time as our telecommunication services can guarantee national wide cell phone coverage to remove copper phone lines is dicing with a potentially catastrophic outcome.”

“... I simply do not buy the excuse from the telecommunications companies that maintaining the copper networks is fiscally demanding. ... I have worked out that we have paid \$10296 over the time we have had a landline phone in these so called “line maintenance charges” and over this entire time not once have had any copper issues that required rectification or necessitated repairs. I am sure that if suddenly a copper wire did get cut or came into disrepair the ten thousand dollars they have collected from us over the years would well and truly cover it.”

## **Catherine Kleiber**

No one should be forced off of a safe landline phone and onto a cellphone which emits radiation that has significant biological effects, including cancer, and meets no meaningful safety limits, see [www.EMFscientist.org](http://www.EMFscientist.org).

People who have already been injured by overexposure to RF and who have often been marginalized by society’s love affair with wireless technology, should not be forced to suffer the further indignity of being unable to use voice communication at all. Furthermore, this would violate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Undoubtedly, telcos says they have to transition away from copper line phones because too many people have already moved away from them. However, often this has happened due to policies of the telcos own making. Often they have neglected their copper wires so badly that the phone service has become so crummy and repairs so poor that people are forced to leave landline phones if they want decent service. That behavior should not be rewarded by penalizing individuals who, through no fault of their own, cannot use other types of phone service.

I have radiofrequency sickness. I become ill in environments polluted by radiofrequency signals of both transmitted and electrical origin. It is important that New Zealand promulgate rules related telephone service such that people with radiofrequency sickness have telephone options available to them throughout the country that are safe for them, namely landline telephones. Furthermore, New Zealand needs to promulgate biologically-based safety standards for design and testing of electronic devices such that they are no longer putting high frequency electrical signals onto building wiring or radiating RF freely. The presence of high frequency electrical signals can cause functional impairment and limit access to public buildings and community gathering spots for people with radiofrequency sickness and thus violates the rights of people disabled by RF exposure.

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## **Cathy Cooke**

*Cites a range of EMF/RF research.*

I am not the only one in my family who is affected [*by wireless technologies – Ed*]. My two sons are also affected. They have lost their appetite and even vomited as a result of being in polluted environments. My older son used to lose behaviour control in response to transmitted communications signals. We have observed this effect particularly related to WiFi, transmitting utility meters, and cellphones. Polluted electrical environments evoked a similar response. The change in his behavior was quite dramatic. In unpolluted environments, he was in control of himself, polite, logical, sweet and kind. In short, wonderful. In polluted environments, within a short time he became hyper and if we did not leave he became quite out of control, unable to listen to instructions, and behaving in ways that would normally be atypical. He rarely spends any time in polluted environments now due to the cardiac arrhythmias that result. My younger son also experienced loss of behaviour control. However, his response to transmitting utility meters is even more scary: he suffers from symptomatic cardiac arrhythmia ([http:// www.magdahavas.com/?s=bradycardia](http://www.magdahavas.com/?s=bradycardia)).

When he was younger, within a short time, he began to act as though he has a major illness coming on, crying and begging to leave. Within minutes after leaving the polluted environment, he was no longer fussy or crying. This happened at Christmas a several years ago, a time he would not normally want to leave his grandparents home, and has happened at other places and events since. He developed similar arrhythmias in response to the installation of 4G cellphone service in our area. We have been frantically shielding the house since in order to keep him healthy and have had to limit his time outside for the same reason. The rampant proliferation of wireless technology has led to a marked increase in ambient RF radiation levels and has virtually isolated us in our home and farm due to the serious functional impairment it causes us.

To protect public health, a robust landline phone system should be maintained to minimize the need for people to use cellphones and a pricing structure to deter their frivolous use should also be adopted.

## **Cellular Phone Task Force**

The world is watching what New Zealand does. The removal of copper lines will leave millions of people without phones and without the ability to have phones. Conservatively 100,000,000 people worldwide have already been injured by wireless technology and rely exclusively on low-EMF copper wire lines. Do not pass this legislation.

## **Clare Swinney**

I am aware that when a WiFi modem emits a signal over 200 mW/m<sup>2</sup>, I may feel a sharp pain in my head. In addition, when a cell phone is on (and is emitting radio-frequency radiation) during the night in my home, I tend to be unable to sleep.



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As a consequence of my personal experiences and awareness of the kinds of harm wireless technology can cause, I am concerned about what will happen to those people (and the unborn) who are unaware of the potential harm radio-frequency radiation can incur, who do not take, or are unable to take precautions to limit their exposure to the harmful electromagnetic radiation emitted from wireless devices. Conclusion From a health-perspective, evidence shows that we need to reduce our reliance on wireless technology, not increase it. This is why I ask the Committee to ensure that copper networks are retained.

## **Dale Weatherley**

Due to recent science that states that electrical magnetic fields are creating health issues, it think it prudent to leave the options as they are up to the purchaser of the product. / I would like to see all options available to domestic and commerical customer stay as they are.

## **Dana-Renee Lee**

As I have been in the IT Security work for 40 years before retiring, I strongly believe in copper as it is easier to secure than fiber or wireless. If it is in place the major cost is done so please leave it alone as any decision you make can and probably will give other companies ideas around the world thinking it will be better!

## **Daniel Kermode**

... this legislation is simply not clear enough for a consumer wishing to introduce muchneeded competition into the telecommunications market.

## **Dave Gilbert**

I oppose any amendment which may limit the availability of copper phone lines on the grounds that: • Emergency 111 and other important calls cannot be made in the event of a power failure • Unnecessary increase in costs • Potential health risks of wireless communication

## **David Sherman**

The copper wire network is a capital asset that has served the entire nation for generations. Introducing more modern services (fibre, RF, etc.) expands consumer choice and keeps the technology current; however, withdrawing the copper wire service reduces consumer choice. At the level of a consumer, the copper wire technology does not require complicated machinery, optical demodulators, and multiplexing routers. These complicated appliances can break or be hacked, which has security implications. Copper wire is a simple, stable, and mature tool for reliable communication, which many consumers continue to choose. / While expedient for

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Chorus, the withdrawal of copper services from subscribers is not in the interests of the consumer.

## **David Sutton**

... access to modern telecommunications is a basic and essential prerequisite for full participation in economic life. ... There is reason to believe that continuation of the copper based services would be the most cost-effective way to ensure access to telecommunications for all, and it would be foolish to throw this system out if it still has a cost advantage.

## **Deborah Cooney**

The copper landline system is a proven and safe technology that is better for people's health than wireless systems. It would be unconscionable to dismantle this safe infrastructure, which has worked flawlessly for decades. Wireless is a failed technology, which has already harmed thousands of people. The pushback against this harmful technology is the wave of the future. I urge the Committee be more forwardlooking in its approach to telecommunications.

## **Dennis Butler**

Leave the copper wire phone lines in place. To isolate the old people is not progress.

## **Deryn Menzies**

I have severe reactions to digital phones and wireless. It surprised me that I was so sensitive but I am. I literally cannot talk on digitalised landlines and mobile phones and the wireless makes me wretched.

So many of my friends and I are so MAD and concerned that our freedoms are being encroached on in a blanket method as these SMART meter technicians have snuck up to our houses and tried to tell us we have no rights. I also live and work on the coast on a place for 60 disabled people and live-in staff and children. We have many evacuation practices for tsunamis etc and I understand that the analogous non digitalised phones are necessary in these emergencies. The digital phones pop my ears and head anyway, as said.

I have two little girls and I want to ensure that I maintain access to a reliable copper landline service.... I hate that my choices are shrinking for having healthy choices. I didn't even know about this legislation until I was alerted. It's not transparent or responsible with so much debate continuing and evidence based research. I am a firm believer in the precautionary principle.

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## **Diana Kordas**

*Author submitted documents 'Birds and Trees North Greece' which shows the effects of cell towers on important bird areas of northern Greece, and 'Nardi Wildlife Report' which documents the decline and disappearance of many species in the World Heritage Site of Mt.Nardi, Australia.*

“There are hundreds of studies documenting effects on nature. The move to wireless networks is literally wiping out the natural world. / On top of that, wireless networks consume far more energy than wired communications, which are faster and safer (both for the environment and for data protection) than wireless networks.”

## **Dr. David Adams**

“Copper landline phones save lives. Copper landlines work when the power is out, fibre optics don't. In an emergency, with no power, no phone, people will be at risk for life threatening situations. Who will pay the price for this aggressive push to end copper landline services?”

*Cites US National Toxicology program, BioInitiative Report, emfscientist, IARC.*

“There is no advantage of higher bandwidth for carrying voice.”

“There is no reason to pack more bandwidth into a voice circuit. It is an unnecessary cost and will serve no purpose.”

## **Dr. Lauraine Vivian**

As scientist concerned about “yet another poorly managed industrial pollutant”.

“Bring back landlines and ground all technology.”

## **Dr. Mary Redmayne**

- a. In the event of a power cut, landline through fibre (rather than copper) will leave all those who have no mobile phone, and those who cannot use one for health reasons, and those whose mobile phone battery is dead, unable to contact the emergency services or a friend or relative for help. This vulnerability also exists in the event of the internet crashing.
  
- i) Regarding use of mobile phones, certain people suffer from extreme sensitivity to radio frequency exposure such as from using a mobile phone. Electro Hyper Sensitivity “manifests itself as a variety of severe dermatological, neurasthenic and/or vegetative symptoms which the person attributes to electromagnetic field exposure ... Whatever its cause, EHS is a real and sometimes a disabling problem for the affected persons” (WHO, 2005). Any amendments to the Telecommunications Framework should cater for these people as indicated in the Human Rights Act (1993) Section 21 (1)(h) which “prohibits discrimination on the grounds of any disability, which includes any physical disability or impairment, physical illness, psychiatric illness or any intellectual physiological disability or impairment or any other loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological, or

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anatomical structure or function”. This requires the government to take steps to ensure all those falling under this description are not disadvantaged in any way.

b. VoIP is less secure than copper landline and requires security steps to be taken. Most members of the public would not know this or how to implement it. There does not appear to be a relevant Clause for which to recommend changes.

c. I note that the words “health”, “safety”, and “emergency” do not appear in the entire document. “Electricity” does not appear, neither does the word “secure” or “security”. Bearing this in mind, insufficient safe-guards have been made in these areas.

- 1) Clause 69AA (a) as drafted: “deregulate copper fixed line access services in areas where fibre fixed line access services are available;”

I oppose Clause 69AA (a) and all related sub-clauses intended to enable it. I consider that it is too early to de-regulate the copper fixed line access and its services until a satisfactory and safe alternative option is provided to enable users to make emergency landline calls during power cuts and internet outages.

- 2) Clause 69AA (b) as drafted: “provide protections for end-users of copper fixed line access services and certain other designated services in deregulated areas;”

I agree with the concept of providing “protections for end-users of copper fixed line access services” providing it includes a sub-clause to require provision of alternative arrangements in the event of a power failure (see the next point).

- 3) New Schedule 2A Copper withdrawal code Clause 1(3) as drafted: “The minimum requirements that the code must include are that, before Chorus is permitted to stop supplying a service under section 69AC or 69AD,— (d) Chorus must provide the end-user with information about— (ii) the need to make alternative arrangements, such as battery backup, to maintain service on fixed line access services in the event of a power failure;”

I oppose New Schedule 2A Clause 1(3)d (ii) and propose replacing it with the following new clause to be placed after 1(3)d : Chorus must provide and install, free of charge, alternative arrangements, such as battery backup, to maintain service on fixed line access services in the event of a power failure;

- 4) New Schedule 2A Copper withdrawal code Clause 1(4) as drafted: The code may contain any other provisions that are necessary or desirable.

I oppose New Schedule 2A Copper withdrawal code Clause 1(4). This a cover-all that does not allow for specific consultative feedback. It should be removed.

- 5) The following Clause/s need/s to be added to New Schedule 2A Copper withdrawal code: a. Road-to-property link must not be wireless without

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signed approval of the end-user. b. End-users must be given the option of connection to fibre by fibre (not wireless).

## **Recommendations**

1. Existing copper landline options should remain in place unless end-users who are not provided with the option of remaining on copper are provided with a free, satisfactory and safe alternative utility interactive battery backup system to enable users to make emergency landline calls during power cuts. For instance, Spark currently recommends Fuelcube. This is beyond the affordability of many New Zealanders; this cost should not fall on them if they have not requested the change to fibre service.
2. A Clause should be included in the Code requiring those installing fibre to activate security protocols for VoIP at the time of installation.
3. Catch-all clauses including New Schedule 2A Copper withdrawal code Clause 1(4) allow covert decisions and do not allow for specific consultative feedback; they should be excluded.
4. If connection to the end-user property from the nearest fibre provision point is wireless, this could provoke a health-related response from those with electro hyper sensitivity, despite the resulting exposure being extremely low. This is pertinent to Comment a(i) and Point 5) above.
5. When individual landline phones are changed to fibre, existing copper wiring should be left in place.

## **Dr. Michael Godfrey**

“I have been researching environmental matters for over 30 years including hazards from EMFs. As a result I do not use any cell-phones and maintain a landline. My computer is connected to a modem by ethernet cable. My wife has a pacemaker and has a St. John’s alarm connected to our landline. There would be many others in not dissimilar situations who require a landline.”

## **Dr. Pam Jaffke**

“When I was using my cell phone extensively I developed tumours on my scalp in a circular pattern around the ear where I held the phone.”

## **Dr. Stephanie McCarter**

“As a board certified physician who practices environmental medicine – I can tell you that the ill effects from wireless radiation are real and growing in number. ... The rates of autism, Alzheimer’s, arrhythmias, male infertility and depression are rising rapidly in correlation to the increase in widespread wireless radiation deployment and device usage.”

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“Abandoning land lines and cable is the opposite of what needs to be done as professionals are just beginning to understand and become educated about the signs and symptoms that result from wireless radiation.”

[Recommends reading Timothy Schoechle, *Re-Inventing Wires: The future of landlines and networks*] “He emphasizes commitment to supporting reliable, energy-efficient and enduring hard-wired telecommunications infrastructure.”

## **E. Drew**

“Megahertz-range manmade wireless causes me to have an extremely high, life-threatening fever, and my doctors don’t know what to do.”

## **Gabriel Millar**

Citing class 2B carcinogen (WHO). “If you value the health of your citizens, keep the landlines.”

## **Gary and Julie Courtenay**

“As a government any legislation passed knowing that access to emergency services has been removed is unacceptable.” Suggests “leaving the internal copper phone wiring so that a dual system remains available.”

## **Gary Sutton**

“I am backing away from using WiFi ... I have never slept so badly.”

## **Gina Wilson**

Has family member with heart and neurological medical condition advised by doctor to avoid EMR. Studies from 1990s onward on cellphone effects.

“It is essential that our politicians protect the public and **not** be bamboozled by, and manipulated by, the extremely financially and politically powerful telecommunications industry.”

## **Glenys Bean**

“I would like you to consider prohibiting the removal of copper wiring from homes and buildings so that a dual system remains available for the public.”

“Please, please don’t be swayed by the very convincing talk/spin from the telecommunications industry – they have bottomless pockets. Your decision will

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affect the health and welfare of New Zealanders for decades to come – please take this seriously.”

## **Hana Blackmore**

“When a fibre optic network was laid throughout our semi-rural area I considered it a positive boon. ... But **no-one** told us at that time that as a result of this roll-out, that we would lose our (copper) residential landline and be forced to sign up to fibre optic. This is dishonourable. It is also short-sighted, ill-advised, and inequitable.”

“... in a crisis like the Christchurch earthquake where calls to relatives could not get through – due to cellphone overload or downed towers – the corded landline worked and everyone was able to stay reassured and connected.”

“All the ‘suggested’ fixes to compensate for the loss of the reliable copper network are yet another burden and expense that would be externalised to us, the consumers. We paid for this network through our taxes. Now, who benefits? Private companies and shareholders? This is patently unjust.”

“To be forced ... to lose our valuable copper based service and be forced to pay for fibre optic that makes us so much more vulnerable, just to profit a private company – not the people of New Zealand – is unfair, unjust and unworthy of this government.”

## **Helen Pierce**

“My purpose is to participate in public health, as I have noted the registry of symptoms from wireless exposure ... 3 to 5% of people having some functional disability currently.” Recommends *The Invisible Rainbow* by A.F. Furstenberg.

## **Ian and Ngaire Broadbelt**

“Why should people be forced to change ...”

“...during Christchurch earthquakes loss of power and battery backup ... cellphone network unusable ... donations of landline phones.”

## **Ian Greenberg**

“Using wireless devices like cell-phones make me ill, with symptoms from headaches, trouble breathing and rapid heartbeat.”

## **Jeremy Anderson**

“... I was amazed to learn that this network could be disbanded. The telephone network was installed and paid for by taxpayers of this nation and is an asset owned

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by the New Zealand public. ... owners of an existing asset should be given first consideration, not just councils, politicians and corporations.”

**[Ed note:** *While the landline phone system was largely built by the publicly owned Post Office, the telecommunications system in NZ was privatised in the 1980s. This means that technically the copper landlines system asset no longer belongs to the NZ public even though generations of taxpayers paid for the development and maintenance of this important national asset.]*

## **Jodie Donnelly**

“As per an abundance of unbiased research done by those who are not paid by industry ... it is now well known in many circles that low intensity radiation ... causes detriment to human health...”

“Those who are immunocompromised and those who have Electrical Hypersensitivity (EHS) are doomed if we/they are not able to choose a healthy alternative, which entails using Land Line phones and Analogue meters, where emissions are kept where they should be, in the phone line and meter box and not radiating willy nilly through our home environment, irradiating us and our children.”  
“The World Health Organisation has a list of symptoms commonly experienced by EHS sufferers.”

“All Wi-Fi must be shut down completely for us to function and survive.”

## **Joe Healy**

“... many [ES citizens] elect to use copper broadband and landlines with corded phones, to avoid the crippling effects upon them, of wireless energy – i.e. Wi Fi, Bluetooth, W.LANs (Wireless local area networks which also use Wi Fi), and DECTs (cordless phones).”

“To protect the functionality of Electro Sensitive people, and also their access to phone and internet services, new fibre modem installations must include ... capability of disabling W.LAN ... ability to switch off wireless aspects of modem.)

## **John Kirby**

“I don’t think it is right to force people to change to a system which is less reliable and harder to use than that which is available through copper cable.”

“I know people that have had no end of trouble when they changed over to fibre. The elderly will be the ones to suffer from having to change, both financially and mentally and will lead to undue stress.”

*The committee admitted as much when extending the deadline only for Grey Power members. But it will affect people of all ages.*



# LANDLINE SUBMISSIONS

## **John Weigel**

“Wireless communications have a profound impact on the health of living things and are vulnerable to privacy violations from any number of sources.”

“A report released in late January by the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy says that wireless infrastructure does not provide reliable, long-term and affordable internet accessibility and will not support people’s data needs of the future. *Re-Inventing Wires: The Future of Landlines and Networks* by Timothy Schoechle, PhD, argues that wired connections need to be installed to meet the future needs of society.”

“Act responsibly and mandate the preservation of Land Lines.”

## **Joseph Nowak**

“The suspension of copper-based landline services is simply a form of vandalism.”

“Emergencies don’t wait until the power gets reconnected!”

“There are no compelling reasons to dismantle a network that is already intact and only requires maintenance.”

“I trust the government will not take this matter any further as it will cost lives and compromise emergency response.”

## **Joy Stockwell**

“In the event of a power cut it will leave all those who have no mobile phone, and those who cannot use one for health reasons, unable to contact the emergency services or a friend or relative for help. This vulnerability exists anytime the internet crashes.”

“The words ‘health’, ‘safety’ and ‘emergency’ do not appear in the entire document. ... priorities need to be re-examined in the light of the government’s duty to protect the health of its citizens.”

“VOIP phones start at about \$100 each. / It is possible to buy the component of a fibre system called a UPS which acts as a backup so that so that your VOIP phone will work during a power blackout but these are not cheap. (\$380 + GST)”

## **Kathy Sanders**

“The copper landline system is a proven and safe technology that is better for people’s health than wireless systems.”

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“Like many others, I have personally experienced a gradual decline in otherwise previously longstanding (and medically documented) excellent health, since the increased introduction of wireless technologies....”

“There is a significant and ever increasing amount of (non-telecommunications industry backed) independent scientific information ... regarding the potential for health risks associated with wireless technologies.”

### **Leslirae Rotor**

“I can’t use cell phones for several reasons including the intense pain deep inside my ear and head from speaking even a short time on a cell phone or cordless phone. / In an emergency situation, I would have no way of contacting anyone. As I am elderly and live alone, this proposed plan could be life-threatening to me.”

“Please retain the landlines. If possible, reduce the number and intensity of the cell towers as they are damaging my health, and those of several other people I know in our community suffering from electromagnetic sensitivities.”

### **Louise Thwaites**

“Much of New Zealand’s telephone infrastructure was installed at taxpayers’ expense beginning with the formation of the New Zealand Post and Telegraph Department in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The New Zealand Post Office was responsible for phone lines until telecommunications services were privatised in NZ in 1987.”

“I am one of the growing number of people with electrosensitivity. [Symptoms:] ... a red burning itchy rash which eventually spreads over the whole body ... allergies, headache, tiredness, numbness and tingling of the face; red, watery and constantly infected eyes, dizziness and lack of concentration, palpitations and difficulty sleeping. / Since removing cordless phones and wifi from my home, and going to a completely copper wired system at home and in my workplace I have my symptoms under control. However if I am staying somewhere with wifi and cordless phones for any length of time my symptoms will quickly flare up. / I believe it is a breach of human rights to enforce this change upon people without due consideration to the known and unknown effects on health.”

“At the very least everyone must be given the choice to either go with the fibre optic network or to retain copper wiring in their own home. This is too serious an issue to be forced upon everyone whilst turning a blind eye to the overwhelming body of evidence of the health effects.”

### **Madalene Frost and Charles Foot**

“Why do I oppose this short-sighted move? During a severe snow storm in the east of Taihape last July (2017) when most ‘modern’ phone lines were out of service for a

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fortnight for many of us, the only people who retained the facility to use their landlines were those with old fashioned copper wire connections!”

“... a copper wire phone connection could be the difference between life and death for increasing numbers of elders with emergency needs.”

## **Malibu Hamilton**

“Globally there is huge concern on the use of rare earth minerals, lithium and cobalt reserves and the destructive mining and recycling of products from smart phone manufacture and use. As a country we cannot be blind to the environmental, social, cultural and economic costs.”

## **Marcus Ward**

“In June 2014 we had a flood and all services were out of order. Copper was the first running.”

3 times involved with 111 call on copper service.

## **Maree Gallagher**

“As we live rurally, our cell phone coverage is erratic and not 100% reliable. The best communication we have 24/7, is our Copper landline!”

## **Margaret Phillips**

“I cannot use a cell phone for more than a minute or two without pain and buzzing in my hands and face, even with a headset or speakerphone. / Conservative estimates suggest that between 3-5% of the population is sensitive to electromagnetic fields – that is a LOT of people! / Also, the landline infrastructure is MUCH less vulnerable to hacking.”

## **Michael Worsham**

“I thought New Zealand was a leader in protecting the environment and people, and animals and other living things. A policy of favouring and emphasizing wireless technology is contrary to this protection, and should not be followed.”

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## **Mike Mullins**

“RFR microwave radiation has been classified by the WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a possible carcinogen (Class 2B) on the basis of increased brain tumour rates in longer term users of wireless phones.”

## **Paige Wills**

“... intermittent or non-existent cell phone coverage on our farms.”

“I support a 30 year moratorium on the removal of copper landline structure, and encourage you to produce strong evidence that, should you go ahead with the removal of copper rural NZ’ers would not be disadvantaged in any way!”

## **Thomas Lynch**

“I think it is important to tell you that WIFI routers and Cell Phones give me headaches. It is very scary, as there are fewer and fewer places I can visit without having this problem.”

Cites major scientific research.

“An increase of major symptoms has become evident for individuals residing at a distance of <500 m from a mobile phone base station, including irritability, headache, and lower cognitive performance.”

“... poor fertility and the increased chance of miscarriage and childhood cancer have been associated with cell phone storage in front pockets.”

“... the timing is wrong for ripping up infrastructure. / Wait another decade as by then the science will have resolved itself. ... Then you can make a decision that is beneficial for everyone. This shouldn’t be done today, there are too many credible studies that suggest a reckoning will occur with this technology in the next few years.”

## **Thomas Parsons**

“More than once, I have needed to use the mobile to report a problem with the landline, and the landline to report problems with the mobile service.”

[told by Vodafone rep:] “...if I need better service (say) after my copper landline is made non-functional, I will need to spend some hundreds of dollars on a repeater station to act as a signal amplifier between my home and the nearest cellphone tower.”

“... it is clear from the actions of Vodafone and Spark that they plan to proceed to diminish my family’s personal security and that of many others.”

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## **Toni Weir**

“I am really irritated with successive governments selling off or removing valuable infrastructure. / I believe resilience means having more than one way to access a service, removing these lines, paid for by citizens over many decades takes away communications resilience.”

“Those copper lines belong to New Zealand citizens and work independently of power.”

**Ed note:** *Please note that there are many more submissions from the public available on the Parliamentary website. Those that are included on this document are a selection only. Due to the fact that many of the submissions from members of the public were not posted on the Parliamentary website until after the bill was reported to the House on May 4, some of the most compelling submissions are not included in this document.*

**All of the submissions on the bill may be read at the following link:**

[https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_74818/tab/submissionsandadvice](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_74818/tab/submissionsandadvice)

**Background information on the bill and the submissions process may be read at this link:** <http://www.saveourlandlines.nz/uncategorized/telecommunications-new-regulatory-framework-amendment-bill-threatens-future-of-landlines/>

*About Save Our Landlines NZ:*

This website is being developed by New Zealanders who want to see the copper landline network in NZ to be retained and protected. If you value having a corded landline phone that will work even if you home (and the area in which you live) loses electricity, you are very welcome to join us. Our website is <http://www.saveourlandlines.nz/> and our news archive is <http://www.saveourlandlines.nz/news/>

To get updates on this issue, please follow our Facebook page at the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/Save-Our-Landlines-NZ-1626155717464225/>

If you would like to help in any way with the campaign to save NZ’s copper landline network, please email us through the contact form below.

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<http://www.saveourlandlines.nz/contact-us/>

Thank you!