

BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF POLICE			
<b>Priority</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time-Sensitive <input type="checkbox"/> Routine  <i>This briefing supports the Minister's meeting on 13 October 2021 with the NGCC Executive Governance Board Chair and Lead Entity Director and Senior Responsible Owner.</i>		
<b>Title</b>	Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC) Update		
<b>Date</b>	8 October 2021	<b>Ref</b>	BR/21/95

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Minister of Police:

- a) **note** that over the past few months significant progress has been made in consultation with participating Agencies and vendors to progress potential solutions to address the critical components of the original Detailed Business Case
- b) **note** that NGCC will begin formal negotiations with vendors from 11 October 2021
- c) **note** that an NGCC Oversight Ministers meeting has been requested through your office [BR/21/63] for mid-December 2021 to ensure the Oversight Ministers are briefed on the progress of the NGCC Programme as we move into the final stages of contract negotiation.
- d) **agree** to schedule two further Oversight Ministers meetings to align with the critical dates for development and submission of the Implementation Business Case to ensure Oversight Ministers are fully briefed on the Implementation Business Case before submission to Cabinet for approval in April 2022. Yes/No
- e) **direct** your office to share this briefing with Oversight Ministers, and the Ministers of Health and Internal Affairs. Yes/No

### Minister's comments and signature

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Hon Poto Williams  
Minister of Police

# BRIEFING FOR THE MINISTER OF POLICE

## Next Generation Critical Communications Update


### Purpose

1. This briefing provides an update on the NGCC programme to support your meeting on 13 October 2021 with Rob Fyfe, NGCC Board Chair, and Steve Ferguson, Lead Entity Director and Senior Responsible Owner.

### Background

2. The NGCC programme was established to improve Emergency services communications infrastructure. The current Emergency Services communications infrastructure is 20 to 30 years old, mostly insecure and obsolete, and presents a growing risk of failure. Without investment in replacement infrastructure, all feasible measures to extend the life of the radio networks will be exhausted beyond 2023.
3. The current infrastructure is predominantly voice-only radio networks with limited inter-operability between agencies. This restricts Emergency Services ability to access modern communications, such as video, imaging, maps and real-time intelligence information. This is preventing responders and agencies from receiving the right information, at the right time, in the right place, and is constraining improvements to frontline services.
4. In February 2020, Cabinet endorsed the Next Generation Critical Communications detailed business case for Emergency Services [CAB-20-MIN-0032 refers]. The business case outlines the need for investment in a replacement critical communications capability which will allow Emergency Services to execute their responsibility to maintain law and order, keep people safe, protect life and property, and deal with medical events.

*There are three immediate challenges the NGCC programme is looking to address*

- a) Police and Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) land mobile radios cannot be supported beyond 2023 due to equipment becoming obsolete. Ensuring we have a solution to replace this functionality is critical and the NGCC programme is looking to address this as part of the first phase of implementation from July 2022.
- b) s9(2)(c) 
- c) Emergency services (including Police, FENZ, and ambulance services) cannot communicate cross-agency, but typically they attend incidents together. There are huge efficiencies to be gained from integrating the comms across the emergency services sector for incident management and cross agency response which will be given priority in the Implementation Phase.

### Progress and learnings to date

5. Since the presentation of the DBC to Cabinet in 2019, the NGCC programme has been working with vendors and participating Agencies to confirm the current capability of technology and infrastructure available within New Zealand, and to establish affordability parameters. The NGCC programme has also engaged with associate entities in Governments in other jurisdictions who are addressing similar challenges. This has allowed us to tighten our scope and develop a clear path forward.

#### *What we have found*

6. Based on this engagement we are confident that vendors can deliver a solution to overcome the immediate challenges and technical constraints Emergency services, including Police, are currently experiencing.
7. This discovery process has also determined that cellular based Mission Critical Push to Talk (MCPTT) that was identified in the Detailed Business Case is still maturing, not yet suitable for use by emergency services and is also unaffordable in our fiscal envelope. Although implementation of MCPTT is not achievable, the outcomes it was looking to address will still largely be achieved by other solutions, which means the investment objectives outlined in the DBC will still be met.
8. The NGCC Programme can deliver a meaningful step forward for communications capability within the Emergency Services Sector. The solutions that we can deliver will provide a solid communications platform for Agencies, which can then be built on, evolved and enhanced in collaboration with Agencies over the coming years.
9. Vendors have demonstrated that they can provide a solution that is far more robust than what agencies use today, will provide the ability to share information securely between frontline staff, and provide a path toward accessing new cellular based technology that is evolving in the global market.

#### *Strategy for vendor negotiations*

10. The focus of our strategy going into negotiations with vendors is founded on three core elements:
  - a) Delivering a modern digital land mobile radio network shared across all agencies that offers resilient communications for at least the next 15 years, with features such as encryption, caller identification and location that will provide interoperability across all agencies responding to an incident.
  - b) Priority access to commercial cellular networks with an agreed quality of service (QPP) along with the ability to roam across networks to deliver increased coverage and resilience that will enable Agencies to transform from voice-centric to data-rich communication, including the ability to share real time incident related information across multiple Agencies – all of which we have been unable to do this far.

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- c) A nationwide Personal Alerting Service for mobilising our volunteer and remote workers.
11. Throughout the negotiation process NGCC will work closely with Crown Infrastructure Partners and Emergency Services Agencies to confirm the best mix of solutions that are in the best interests of all parties involved, are within the fiscal envelope available and that address the critical communications capability required (refer para.10).
12. NGCC, Emergency Services Agencies and Crown Infrastructure Partners are currently in the Procurement Phase of the Public Safety Network (PSN) investment. Refer Fig.1 below.



Figure 1: Overview of Public Safety Network (PSN) Programme Investment

### Negotiation timeframes

13. Our negotiation timeframes are tight. Our current view is to conclude most of the negotiations by 17 December 2021 (as outlined in the table below). If necessary, we will continue to progress to a satisfactory final position into the New Year.

	Negotiations Commence	Negotiations targeted to conclude
<b>Land Mobile Radio (LMR)</b>	18 October 2021	17 December 2021
<b>Priority Cellular</b>	25 October 2021	17 December 2021
<b>Personal Alerting Service</b>	11 October 2021	17 December 2021

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14. The NGCC Programme timeline has been updated to reflect the negotiation process and key dates to getting the Implementation Business Case to Cabinet for approval by April 2022, as outlined below.

Deliverable	Date (status)
NGCC Executive Governance Board approval to negotiate	9 September 2021 ( <b>Achieved</b> )
Oversight Minister's meeting [ <i>refer BR2163</i> ]	December 2021 ( <b>TBC</b> )
Contract negotiations conclude (target)	17 December 2021
Cabinet approval of the Implementation Business Case	April 2022

15. Following Business Case approval, we intend to get contracts signed in Q2 2022, and commence build from 1 July 2022.

### Ministerial and sector engagement

16. As outlined in our Ministerial Briefing [BR/21/63] to you NGCC are wanting to engage with Oversight Ministers to brief them on progress, provide oversight of the refined scope, investment/funding required and the services we are proposing to build and deliver, prior to the completion of contract negotiations.
17. We would then look to engage with you and the Oversight Ministers Group again in mid to late February 2022 as we look to finalise the Implementation Business Case for Ministerial and Cabinet approval in April 2022.
18. The NGCC Programme will also undertake a socialisation process as we progress the draft Implementation Business Case, engaging with:
- Ministers sitting across the Emergency Services Sector
  - Central Agencies for endorsement, support and refinement of the proposed Implementation Business Case.

### Next steps

19. Confirm the date for the December 2021 Oversight Ministers meeting.

s9(2)(a)

Rob Fyfe CNZM  
Chair  
NGCC Executive Governance Board

First contact	Rob Fyfe Chair, NGCC Executive Governance Board	s9(2)(a)
Second contact	Steve Ferguson Director, NGCC Lead Entity NGCC Senior Responsible Owner	s9(2)(a)