
REPORT 5
(1215/13/IM)

MAKARA/OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION TO THE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL DRAFT DIGITAL STRATEGY

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is for the Makara/Ohariu Community Board to consider the submission prepared and to approve it for consideration by the Wellington City Council.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Makara/Ohariu Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to the submission to the Wellington City Council Draft Digital Strategy as attached as appendix 1.*

APPENDIX 1

Makara/Ohariu Community Board Submission on Wellington City Council's Wellington Draft Digital Strategy

1. The Makara/Ohariu Board wished to be consulted in the draft stages of the Digital Strategy. The Board considers itself a key stakeholder for Council across a range of policies, plans and strategies.
2. Access to adequate and reliable telecommunications services are a key issue in rural Wellington. This includes weather proof telephone (land line) services, mobile phone reception and access to internet.
3. There are a number of small businesses in the Makara/Ohariu area and almost 300 households.
4. It is estimated that xxx visit Makara coast each year. It is one of Wellington's five major recreational areas.

Issues with Internet Access

5. There is limited mobile phone coverage, no cable and poor quality, weather affected phone lines. A limited number of households have coverage for mobile wireless. Dial up internet is too slow to load many websites or download large PDF's, for example Council plans and consultation documents. The rural roll out mainly provides a better service to a limited number of households around already established and serviced hubs. For many ratepayers the only potential broadband service is via a satellite services.
6. Issues with satellite internet include
 - Affordability. Satellite internet is particularly expensive, and affordable only for high income households. There are significant installation costs, small data caps and high rates per MB.
 - Satellite in the main delivers 'slow' broadband, with significant delays as the signal travels. Faster broadband is over \$200 per month.
 - Satellite receivers struggle with the high wind, high corrosion environment

Social Inclusion

7. It is necessary to have broadband access to conduct ordinary every day business, and participate as a citizen.
8. Government and Council service design is predicated on access to broadband internet to conduct every day business.
9. Council identifies its role as enabling. The ways it will do so include
 - ensuring all financial transactions can be conducted online
 - making civic data available
 - using web and IT interactions to increase civic participation
 - removing barriers

APPENDIX 1

To become users of the digital business benefiting from Council investment in the Digital Strategy Council demands connected citizens.

The citizens of Wellington are mobile and wireless. They carry their access to email, internet, social networks, music and phone everywhere.