

## **SATELLITE PROVIDER WELCOMES GOVT TSO REVIEW**

**Media release, BayCity Communications, Christchurch, New Zealand, 12-06-09:**  
***Satellite broadband provider BayCity Communications is pleased to see Communications Minister Steven Joyce has no plans to undermine the essence of the Kiwi Share governing Telecom, but supports Vodafone's statements around the urgency for the remainder of the TSO agreement to be rewritten.***

"We believe the TSO's provision for rural New Zealanders urgently needs updating in the context of the completely different commercial telecommunications environment that now exists here," says BayCity managing director, Tony Baird.

Along with other providers, BayCity has been actively involved in the review process with the former Labour government and now with National, aiming to ensure that a level playing field is provided, especially for those companies who already have the technology in place to provide voice services and broadband to the most remote rural regions.

"We know that funds have been loosely earmarked by the government for ensuring rural areas have access to broadband, however, under the current TSO agreement there is no real flexibility to allow alternative means of telecommunications to be supported."

"For a small portion of the funds that go each year to Telecom under the TSO to provide service to 'unviable customers', BayCity can provide thousands of remote New Zealanders with phone and broadband services."

Baird says the benefit for New Zealanders is the fact that the structure to provide phone and broadband to remote areas already exists via satellite technology - all that is required is a dish to link each home.

"The Australian government has recognized the value of satellite in providing broadband to remote locations, through its Broadband Guarantee, however we are yet to see anything similar from the New Zealand government," Baird says.

"We look forward to seeing the logical outcome of this review, taking into account all the technologies and the significant amount of competition that now exists in the New Zealand telecomms market. We believe the benefits for customers in this environment should be ultimately very positive and we eagerly anticipate providing our service on a level playing field."

BayCity radically cut the cost of its install and monthly fees in June 2008 with the launch of Rocket Broadband, sold through its retail arm, Farmside. This week it also announced the doubling of upload and download speeds for all existing and new Farmside/Rocket Broadband customers, at no additional cost.

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**About BayCity Communications:**

BayCity Communications is the National Service Operator for a range of satellite based communication products throughout New Zealand, including broadband internet, and Voice over IP. BayCity Communications has exclusive access to the IPSTAR telecommunications satellite in New Zealand and is contracted to provide New Zealand service providers with a range of wholesale bandwidth. The IPSTAR satellite was launched in 2006 and is the largest two-way communications satellite of its kind. [www.bccnz.com](http://www.bccnz.com)