

27 January 2025

**Hon Dr Shane Reti**  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

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## **InternetNZ briefing to the incoming Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

Tēnā koe Minister,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to the Science, Innovation and Technology portfolio. In this letter, we share our thoughts on key Internet issues for this parliamentary term and how we can work together.

We request a 30-minute meeting with you to discuss our work and opportunities to support you and your officials.

### **InternetNZ manages the .nz domain space**

InternetNZ | Ipurangi Aotearoa is the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) manager for New Zealand. We operate the domain name system for 750,000 domain names ending in .nz. A key part of our role is participation in the international community that sets global Internet policies and protocols.

InternetNZ has a long-standing Memorandum of Understanding with MBIE regarding the management of the .nz ccTLD. We also work with other government agencies (including DIA, DPMC and MFAT) on online harm, Internet governance, critical infrastructure, and support for our Pacific neighbours.

As an incorporated society, we invest a portion of the money we receive from .nz domain names in the community. We provide grants, support partner organisations, and advocate for an accessible and safe Internet that benefits everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We can support you as a Minister by providing expertise, an independent perspective on Internet issues, and the ability to engage across the digital ecosystem nationally and internationally.

## **We want to work with you in three key areas**

We have experience providing technical advice to government on Internet issues. We can provide you with expertise on **Internet infrastructure, cyber security, and digital equity.**

### **Internet infrastructure**

The Crown, along with others in the Internet governance community, has a key role to play in strengthening New Zealand's Internet infrastructure. We note that you have commented on the importance of digital infrastructure in the health sector.

Most New Zealanders rely on the Internet on a daily basis - to run businesses, connect with others, and engage with government services. A recent study indicated that if the Internet were to go down for a day in New Zealand, it would cost our economy \$158 million<sup>1</sup>. We believe that providing New Zealanders with resilient infrastructure to connect online must remain a priority. Our 2023 Internet Insights report found that 42% of New Zealanders are extremely or very concerned about people being cut off from the Internet for a considerable amount of time due to a natural disaster or an infrastructure issue<sup>2</sup>.

In 2024, the Pacific Islands Internet Governance Forum (PacIGF) convened in Wellington as part of the bi-annual Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) conference. The Pacific ccTLDs and Internet community have a strong focus on strengthening infrastructure resilience across their Pacific region.

We can support you and your officials by drawing on our expertise as an infrastructure provider and our connections to the expertise within the global Internet technical community.

### **Cyber security**

Like other critical infrastructure, maintaining the security of the Internet is paramount. The risk posed by cyber security threats continues to grow as they increase in frequency, sophistication and scale.

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<sup>1</sup><https://itp.nz/techblog/3293-Pulling-the-plug-on-the-internet-for-a-day---what-it-would-cost-the-world>

<sup>2</sup><https://internetnz.nz/new-zealands-internet-insights/new-zealands-internet-insights-2023/>

We have been engaged in the development of the Government's Cyber Security Strategy and offered insights from our international work.

We can support you and your officials by sharing our international insights and our relationships with Pacific ccTLDs.

### **Digital equity**

Research shows that digital inclusion supports economic growth through higher employment, higher revenue and accelerated productivity and innovation.<sup>3</sup>

While New Zealand has made great progress in digital inclusion and equity, there is still work to do to ensure everyone can access and use the Internet effectively. Improving access and affordability remains an ongoing challenge for many communities, while others are focused on building their own confidence with digital technologies and digital literacy.

We would like to discuss opportunities to work across portfolios and with community groups to close the digital divide.

### **Next steps**

We can support you as the Minister for technology by sharing our expertise on Internet infrastructure, providing international insights on Internet cyber security issues, and working with you to close the digital divide.

As a provider of critical Internet domain name services in New Zealand, we are also available to respond to questions or provide advice in support of your portfolio.

We look forward to working with you over this term of government and will work with your office to organise a time to meet.

Ngā mihi nui,



Vivien Maidaborn  
**Tumu Whakarae | Chief Executive**

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.digital.govt.nz/digital-government/programmes-and-projects/finished/digital-inclusion/digital-inclusion-research/the-economic-case-for-increasing-digital-inclusion>