

Crawford, Hamish

From: Crawford, Hamish
Sent: Monday, 14 June 2021 5:53 PM
To: 'Fiona Matthews'
Cc: Rohan Patel
Subject: Proposed Nukuhau Private Plan Change - Taupo

Hi Fiona

I'm just following up our conversation of 7 May in relation to the proposed Nukuhau Private Plan Change. My notes from this meeting are below. I don't believe I've received from you the proposed wording that you'd like us to consider. If you would please forward that through to me at your earliest convenience would be appreciated.

Kind regards,
Hamish Crawford

The minutes I captured from our 7 May meeting is as below:

Present: Fiona Matthews (National Programme Manager incl PolicY), Julia Ryall (Program Manager / Delivery Enabler) and Rohan Patel (engineer / designer) – all from Spark, and Hamish Crawford (WSP).

- Discussed the provision of fibre in developments – Spark have confidence fibre would be laid to properties. Seem happy with the current process for that.
- Previously mobile towers were placed at tops of hills. Now they place them in amongst communities, where the data consumption is greatest.
- Green dot in submission (north of Spa Road near CBD) is the closest Spark mobile tower. There are '6 or 7' other Spark tower sites in Taupō (mistake in submission).
- Spark was already looking for a site in Nukuhau. The additional housing area will be hard to serve.
- A well-connected community requires both fibre and mobile.
- Typically the infrastructure is an extension on light poles, with a small plinth alongside:



- Best position depends on surrounding trees and the proposed heights of houses – normally they get above the heights of houses.
- Currently there are 3 mobile suppliers – Spark, Vodafone and 2 degrees. Could be others in future. Some sites are shared. An area required by Spark may not be required by the others, and vice versa. Commerce Commission requires that the must share sites / poles. As such, there is no particular advantage to Spark over the other competitors through the provision of tower sites.
- NPS for Urban Development 2020 gives mobile suppliers the permitted activity right to place a tower on any existing road reserve, up to 3m above the height of existing poles or allowable pole heights.

- There are often neighbour concerns and complaints when they place towers in existing residential areas. Spark prefer to have infrastructure built first – ie before people purchase the sections.
- Spark have limited budget for funding this infrastructure. They invite developers to enter into an Infrastructure Funding Agreement with them – the advantage to developers is that their areas will be well serviced.
- Spark is looking for an Objective / Policy to trigger the need to communicate with Spark (I challenged this as completely wrong / impractical). Not looking for Development Controls.
- Ideally would like to be involved with the sequencing from the Plan Change to Subdivision stage.
- Wants to bring to attention of developers that there may be restriction to mobile data in developments if they do not proactively work with companies like Spark.
- No problem with emergency calls in a weak mobile area.

Outcome

- Spark would fully support the Plan Change if we agree to incorporate a policy that talks about telecommunications (including fibre and mobile) as essential infrastructure that should be considered in future developments. Fiona to forward through to me the wording she proposes, which we will consider.

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