

Wireless health concerns

Spark is threatening to move many of its customers who currently have a safe hard-wired internet connection (thanks to the copper landline system) to wireless internet even in areas where fibre is available. (See: <https://www.computerworld.co.nz/article/609604/spark-abandon-copperfibre-wireless-broadband/>)

The submission from the International EMF Scientist Appeal to the United Nations, signed by 236 scientists from 41 nations, states:

“There is growing evidence that supports the application of precautionary measures to offer greater human health protection from chronic exposure to wireless communications technologies. Dropping copper landlines would be going in the opposite direction and is ill advised.” (www.emfscientist.org)

“No one should be forced off of a safe landline phone and onto a cellphone which emits radiation that has significant biological effects, including cancer, and meets no meaningful safety limits.”

“RFR microwave radiation has been classified by the WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a possible carcinogen (Class 2B) on the basis of increased brain tumour rates in longer term users of wireless phones.”

“Wireless networks consume far more energy than wired communications, which are faster and safer (both for the environment and for data protection).”

Save Our Landlines NZ has launched a petition to protect access to copper landline telephones.

The petition asks New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters to withdraw the Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Bill which threatens New Zealanders’ access to the copper phone line network.

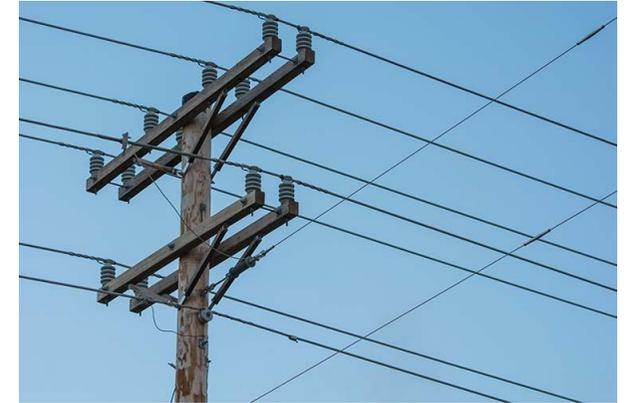
The petition requests that the bill be re-drafted so that it protects the copper phone line system and ensures that it remains accessible at an affordable price.

“When a fibre optic network was laid throughout our semi-rural area I considered it a positive boon. ... But no-one told us at that time that as a result of this roll-out, that we would lose our (copper) residential landline and be forced to sign up to fibre optic. This is dishonourable. It is also short-sighted, ill-advised, and inequitable.” (Hana Blackmore)

www.saveourlandlines.nz



SAVE OUR LANDLINES



Sign the online petition NOW

to defend New Zealand’s copper landline network from destruction, and help educate others about the importance of our national telecommunications infrastructure.

& contact your local MP

Visit the website
www.saveourlandlines.nz

The threat to NZ's copper landline phone system – and what you can do about it

Did you know the **Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Bill** currently before Parliament contains a clause allowing Chorus to permanently destroy New Zealand's copper landline infrastructure?

Spark calls this an 'upgrade' and claims we would still have 'landlines' but the VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and wireless systems do not constitute real landlines.

“Reliance solely on fibre and wifi for telecommunications leaves individuals and communities unnecessarily vulnerable in the event of the internet crashing, power cuts and civil defence emergencies.” (Sue Grey)

The words **'health', 'safety', 'emergency' do not appear anywhere** in the bill, nor in submissions by Chorus, Spark and Vodafone – which shows their lack of regard for us.

Despite silence from our government and media, hundreds of New Zealanders made submissions showing **almost unanimous opposition** to removing the landlines for health, safety and financial reasons.

Unfortunately these submissions, backed by the advice of NZ and international experts, have been ignored and now we ask you to **make your voice heard by signing the online petition to save our landlines, and to contact your local MP.**

www.saveourlandlines.nz



The ability to dial **111** during emergencies is high on New Zealanders' list of priorities in submissions and advice to government.

“During a severe snow storm when most 'modern' phone lines were out of service for a fortnight the only people who retained the facility to use their landlines were those with old fashioned copper wire connections!”

“We had a flood and all services were out of order. Copper was the first running.”

“The copper wire service was restored overnight but cell phone towers remained out of commission for days.”

Removing our landlines will cost lives.

“So ... low income? Baby on the way? Burglary or violence in progress? Family member having a heart attack or stroke? Unless you have a copper landline, better pray the power isn't off. This does not strike me as a high-quality, affordable telecommunications environment.”

(Dr. Susan Pockett)

Landline network funded by NZ taxpayers

Despite relentless pressure from telcos to disconnect our landlines, nearly 50% of all New Zealanders have chosen to retain theirs for emergencies, as well as more reliable and affordable telephone and internet services.

Many submitters question the plan to phase out such an important national **asset**. “I was amazed to learn that this network could be disbanded. The telephone network was installed and **paid for by taxpayers** of this nation...”

“Not all New Zealanders are in a financial position to update their homes with the correct fibre optics, have mobile technology devices that constantly need software updates and changed every couple of years.”

And what about the maintenance fees? “If a copper wire suddenly came into disrepair the \$10,000 they have collected from us over the years would well and truly cover it.”

Spark recommends that, in the absence of a reliable landline network, every household in New Zealand invest in a battery back-up system called a Fuelcube which costs \$440!

Can you spare \$440?

“This is beyond the affordability of many New Zealanders; this cost should not fall on them if they have not requested the change to fibre service.” (Dr. Mary Redmayne)