

# Submission on Copper Withdrawal Code

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## Introduction

Please note that this is a very abbreviated submission due to time constraints.

The Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Amendment Bill was passed into law by the government in November 2018 despite the vast majority of the submissions from the public being opposed to the phasing out of copper lines.

Since that time, concerns about the potential impact of removing a telecommunications option (copper) that could be needed at a time of national crisis were vindicated by the temporary telecommunications system breakdowns (due to overloading) around the initiation of the COVID-19 lockdown. This could have been much worse had copper been unavailable.

I hope that the Commerce Commission will ask the government to reconsider the future of the copper landlines system and amend The Telecommunications (New Regulatory Framework) Amendment Act so that consumer choice is maintained and the copper system is not phased out.