

Chorus should not be allowed to stop providing copper services.

The resilience that copper wire gives us can't be replaced with fibre. If new Zealand loses it's copper wire we will all be at risk in times of power loss because our phones won't work.

In Christchurch I had fibre for the internet but the phone was on copper wire, (Incidentally, fibre on the whole proved not visibly faster compared to copper on a properly maintained network. The bottleneck was always the servers at the other end. So connecting to Microsoft or Adobe was much faster, but connecting to most other websites was not).

When the earthquake struck everything on fibre went down with the power being off, but my phone still worked. The cell phone towers were unusable because of the heavy traffic, and they also went down after about 7 hours as their batteries failed.

Is Chorus suggesting we will never have another earthquake? Here in Oamaru the cable has been cut several times this year alone south of here, and fibre connected phones have stopped working.

I also want to mention how losing the copper network would affect the elderly.

Here there are many elderly who have no internet and rely on their copper based phone lines for communication.

Their phones are a matter of life and death. Who is going to help them set up a fibre based system? Do we also expect them to pay for routers and new phones and the power to run them 24/7?

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16/07/2020