

Rural Broadband

About the Rural Broadband Initiative

The Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) is bringing better broadband to rural schools, health providers, some libraries and to date, over 72,000 rural phone lines.

Chorus and Vodafone are working together to deliver the Government's RBI programme, which will see much of rural New Zealand getting improved broadband services.

Delivering better broadband to rural areas is challenging, with line distance and low population density making it difficult both technically and financially. This challenge was acknowledged by Government and RBI was conceived.

RBI pulls together several elements that mean 87% of rural New Zealand will get ADSL2+ or VDSL broadband. It incorporates copper, fibre and wireless networks to deliver better broadband. Where you live and work determines what solution is provided - either fixed line broadband (over our copper and fibre networks) or fixed wireless broadband (over Vodafone's mobile network).

Our role

The main task for Chorus is laying fibre to rural schools, medical facilities and some libraries, often to exchange areas where there isn't fibre today.

We are installing around 1,200 fibre-fed cabinets to rural areas - meaning around 57% of rural New Zealand will have access to fixed line broadband. And over 30% of homes, farms and businesses supplied via our new cabinets can access a VDSL broadband service with speeds in excess of 20 Mbps. This is the fastest service over our existing copper network.

We are also delivering fibre to new Vodafone mobile sites that will be used to provide a fixed wireless broadband to rural communities.

We have made great progress. We are now well past the halfway mark in our rollout of fibre and high speed broadband cabinets. At 30 June 2014, a total of about 3,100km of fibre had been laid for the programme, with fibre extended to 951 schools. The rollout had also brought new or upgraded broadband coverage within reach of 72,000 rural lines and broadband uptake was approximately 80%.

"As at June 2014 we had laid 3,100 km of fibre and brought 72,000 lines within reach of better broadband and 951 rural schools are able to connect to fibre."

THE RBI NUMBERS - BY THE END OF THE PROGRAMME:

- Chorus is laying **3,350 km of fibre** by the end of the programme in 2015
- We are installing or upgrading over **1,000 new broadband cabinets**
- We are enabling over **40,000 lines** in rural areas to access broadband services that had no previous access
- Connecting over **1,000 rural schools** to fibre
- Connecting **154 new Vodafone cell sites** to fibre
- **50 hospitals and integrated family health centres** will have the benefit of 100Mbps fibre connections
- We are connecting **183 rural libraries** to fibre

You can check what broadband services are currently available at your address using our [Broadband Checker](#). This will also give you an indication of planned upgrades to improve your broadband services.

Technology and coverage of our RBI broadband

Broadband speed	% rural lines within reach	Technology	Distance from cabinet/exchange
5Mbps	57%	ADSL(copper)	up to 6km
10Mbps	50%	ADSL2+ (copper)	up to 2.4km
20Mbps	34%	VDSL(copper)	around 800m
100Mbps	6%	GPON (fibre)	around 20km but eligibility criteria applies

And now there is fibre

We are now offering fibre connections to eligible farms, businesses and homes. The key eligibility criteria is whether Chorus has deployed new ducting infrastructure, in which fibre has been deployed as part of RBI.

Eligible farms, businesses and homes will be able to connect enabling broadband speed of up to 100Mbps. You can check our Rural Fibre map which indicates where new infrastructure ducts have been deployed. Please contact a telecommunications service provider for more information including details of installation costs and plans.