



Ruapehu Press

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Samantha Arthur-Curtis and Lauren Gram are urging people of Ruapehu to take the survey online, in a bid to getting Ruapehu ultra fast broadband.



Broadband revolution, if you want it

By STEPHANIE RANGI

Ultra-fast broadband would be a "game changer" for Ruapehu's economic and productive potential, says the mayor.

Ruapehu mayor Don Cameron is urging people to help council gain a share of the \$400 million on offer for the next stage of the national broadband rollout programme.

"This would be a game changer for Ruapehu's economic and productive potential, and I urge as many people and communities of interest as possible to take part in the process," he said.

The next phase of the government's broadband plan is to extend ultra-fast broadband, enhancing rural broadband.

Cameron said Ruapehu District Council urgently needed Ruapehu communities to take part in a simple test to measure the speed of their internet connection and provide feedback on their current internet service.

"This information is critical to helping put the best possible argument forward as to why New Zealand would benefit from Ruapehu getting broadband infrastructure investment ahead of other

districts," he said.

"The government has asked local councils to submit a Registration of Interest (ROI) outlining our commitment, followed by a Digital Enablement Plan (DEP) that outlines how we would benefit Ruapehu and New Zealand from the investment."

To put together the best possible ROI and DEP that will give Ruapehu the best chance of being successful, council requires the support of Ruapehu communities.

Cameron added council needed to demonstrate that if Ruapehu was prioritised for broadband infrastructure investment that they'd be able to capitalise on it and provide the best possible return for New Zealand.

"A key part of the information we need to provide, includes an overview on the state of Ruapehu's telecommunications infrastructure that needs to be supported by hard data.

"This is where we urgently need the help of the general public to measure their internet speed and provide feedback on their current internet service.

Samantha Arthur-Curtis and Lauren Gram from council were in charge of the communications side and asked everyone to take the

"We urgently need the help of the general public."
Ruapehu mayor Don Cameron

online survey created to measure internet speed.

"We really want people to do the survey. We want to highlight the need for improvements in our infrastructure for ultra-fast broadband," Arthur-Curtis said. Gram added they would like to hear from businesses in the main streets of the Ruapehu district.

"We also want to highlight how their business can be improved by ultra fast broadband."

While the need for everyone to take part in the survey was crucial to the report Arthur-Curtis and Gram are putting together, they also wanted people to write in or email their internet speed and connection "horror" stories.

To take part go to Council's website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz and follow the simple speed test instructions and fill out the short survey.

For more information or assistance call either Samantha Arthur-Curtis or Lauren Gram via their local Council office.



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