

SOUTHERN CROSS CABLES LIMITED

LEVEL 2-4, 318 LAMBTON QUAY. WELLINGTON 6011. NEW ZEALAND
PO BOX 5430. WELLINGTON. 6045. NEW ZEALAND

21 July 2023

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)
Level 8 Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings,
Wellington 6021

Attention: National Security Group

Subject: DPMC Consultation - Critical Infrastructure Resilience

THE SOUTHERN CROSS CABLE NETWORK

1. We thank you for the opportunity to attend the Critical Infrastructure Resilience engagement session earlier this week. It was a very informative session.
2. By way of introduction, Southern Cross Cables Limited operates an international submarine cable network which provides New Zealand with fast, direct and secure high-capacity telecommunication services between Australasia and the United States West Coast (“the Southern Cross Cable Network”). The Southern Cross Cable Network is a multiple route cable system, linking Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tokelau, Kiribati, Hawaii and the US Mainland.
3. Southern Cross Cables’ inception began in New Zealand, and Spark New Zealand remains the largest shareholder. We estimate that we carry between 50% to 75% of New Zealand’s international traffic. We are regulated by the US Federal Communications Commission, with assurance obligations given to the Department of Homeland Security, and we are subject to the Australian Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018 and have been told we will be declared a System of National Significance under that Act this year.
4. We support the principles outlined in the New Zealand discussion document on strengthening the resiliency of Aotearoa New Zealand’s critical infrastructure system and agree that some form of cross sector regulatory framework is beneficial in New Zealand.
5. Southern Cross Cables’ is comfortable to be caught within the scope of the definition of critical infrastructure as part of New Zealand’s telecommunications network if the DPMC deem it appropriate. We take the resilience of our network very seriously and accept that meeting the reasonable costs of compliance with any New Zealand regulations would fall to Southern Cross Cables.
6. Our only comment at this point is that we ask that it is clarified in any possible regime that only the assets within the jurisdictional waters of New Zealand are covered and within jurisdiction, and that it is expressly recognised that crisis management, incident response and disaster recovery plans of



P: +64.4.499.7232 | E: contact@scn.co.nz | WWW.SOUTHERNCROSSCABLES.COM

The Southern Cross Cable Network is operated by Southern Cross Cables Limited a company incorporated in Bermuda

an entity may cover global infrastructure systems and do not need to be specifically tailored/limited to New Zealand based assets or New Zealand requirements (provided the New Zealand requirements are met as a minimum standard of course). We also would like it clarified that crisis management, incident response and disaster recovery plans should be bespoke plans tailored to the unique environment of the entity, as one approach will not fit all entities e.g templates may be provided as a guide, but it will not be the prescribed format and/or limit or prescribe content. The Australian Cyber and Infrastructure Security Centre has taken this approach, which we believe is sensible and pragmatic for entities whose infrastructure is within multiple jurisdictions.

7. It would also be appreciated if we could be included in future consultation on the resilience framework.
8. Yours Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is 'Laurie Miller' and the second is 'Rebecca Jacob'.

Mr Laurie Miller, CEO and President; and Mrs Rebecca Jacob, General Counsel
Southern Cross Cables Limited