

Media release

Next Generation Critical Communications Board Members reappointed to deliver the Public Safety Network

27 September 2023

Four independent Members of the Next Generation Critical Communications Executive Governance Board have been reappointed and will continue contributing to the delivery of the Public Safety Network Te Kupenga Marutau for New Zealand's emergency services.

Reappointed for a three-year term by Police Minister Ginny Andersen, Mr Rob Fyfe will continue as NGCC Board Chair, and Mr Antony Royal, Ms Deborah Battell and Mr TJ Kennedy will continue as independent Members bringing expertise and leadership in technical, commercial and international domains.

The Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC) Executive Governance Board was established in 2020 to oversee the establishment of the NGCC Lead Entity responsible for developing and delivering the Public Safety Network, and to play a significant oversight role in the new national network's delivery.

The Board comprises five independent Members alongside the Police Commissioner and Chief Executives of Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Hato Hone St John, Wellington Free Ambulance and the National Emergency Management Agency.

Ms Karen Mitchell has resigned from the Board as an independent Member and the vacant position will be filled later this year.

The renewed term for the Next Generation Critical Communications Executive Governance Board Independent Members is from 11 August 2023 to 30 June 2026.

NGCC Executive Board Chair Rob Fyfe says, "I'm really pleased to continue leading this Board at such an important time for the Public Safety Network and the sea change it is poised to make for New Zealand's emergency response and disaster recovery communications.

"In July, Next Generation Critical Communications delivered the globally-leading Public Safety Network [Cellular Roaming](#) service on time and within budget. It is the Board's role to build on this success and the independent Members' reappointment provides important governance and leadership continuity for the Public Safety Network's delivery. I would like to thank Karen Mitchell for her excellent contribution to this endeavour and wish her well.

“The new critical communications capability will greatly support the operations and safety of the emergency services in their everyday work, as well as for large scale climate-related events. Ultimately, all New Zealanders will benefit from the government’s strategic infrastructure investment.”

ENDS

Contact: Next Generation Critical Communications media: ngcc2@police.govt.nz or 027 4815 953.

Watch: [Introducing Public Safety Network Cellular Roaming](#) (video 2.22 mins)

About the Public Safety Network Te Kupenga Marutau

The Public Safety Network is a significant infrastructure project investing \$1.4 billion over 10 years to build and operate, roll out new devices to Police, Hato Hone St John, Fire and Emergency NZ and Wellington Free Ambulance staff, stations and vehicles, and decommission the existing radio network.

The Public Safety Network consists of three complementary elements: a digital land mobile radio, cellular services and personal alerting. The Public Safety Network will provide the emergency services with modern, secure and resilient critical communications that enable them to do their jobs, stay safe and support our communities. Other public safety organisations will be able to join the network in the future, and further services will be added.

Ten-year contracts to build and operate the network are in place with Tait Kordia Joint Venture (Land Mobile Radio network) and Hourua (cellular services).

About Next Generation Critical Communications Poutama Whai Tikanga Pāpāho

Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC) is the government’s leading advisor on critical communications for public safety in New Zealand. NGCC’s mission is to modernise the communications capability of New Zealand’s emergency services to deliver more information, to more places in real time. It is responsible for delivering the new Public Safety Network Te Kupenga Marutau.

In July this year, NGCC, along with the four emergency services, activated cellular Roaming as the first [Public Safety Network service](#) for the emergency services meaning users can now move seamlessly across the Spark and One NZ networks to increase coverage and communication resilience. www.ngcc.govt.nz