

In Brief: N.Z. extends comment on cell termination

May 1 2006

New Zealand's communications minister has extended the deadline for comment on plans to regulate termination rates for wireless phones.

Communications Minister David Cunliffe said Monday that while there would be no formal consultations, submissions of any new ideas on the matter would be accepted until May 22.

The government has been inclined to regulate termination, which refers to the connecting of mobile phones to calls from other wireless and fixed-line phones.

A report in the New Zealand Herald said a 112-page report on the matter released Monday stated that current termination costs were too high and that regulation would benefit the overall wireless sector even with resulting price cuts.

"Regulation of mobile termination rates will promote competition in this market through an improved alignment of price and costs," the report said.

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