

Media release

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New Board member appointed to support growth of New Zealand’s public safety communications capability

Chair of Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC), Rob Fyfe, today announced the appointment of Glen Sowry as an independent commercial member on the entity’s Executive Governance Board.

The Board was established in 2020 to oversee the establishment of Next Generation Critical Communications and its delivery of the Public Safety Network (PSN) for the emergency services. Mr Sowry also joins the entity’s new parallel Interim Board specifically charged with NGCC’s evolution to a Schedule 4A Crown company ready to begin offering services to the wider public safety sector from 1 July 2026.

“I am honoured to welcome Glen to the Board at this pivotal time for the organisation as it prepares to extend its emergency grade cellular services to uplift the wider public safety sector,” Mr Fyfe says.

“Glen has worked in senior executive leadership roles within some of New Zealand’s highest profile organisations with significant experience in technically complex environments.

“He has extensive board experience and expertise in navigating between the commercial and government sectors to ensure projects are delivered on time and on budget. He has been responsible for large scale operational delivery, business transformation, and developing and leading commercial strategies,” Mr Fyfe says.

Mr Sowry says, “I am looking forward to working alongside the highly experienced and capable NGCC board as the organisation continues to build and deliver its digital communications platform to ensure New Zealand’s essential emergency services and wider public safety sector have a reliable and future proof system.”

Mr Fyfe says, “With Glen’s expertise and support, the Interim Board is guiding NGCC on its journey to uplift the communications of hundreds more organisations who work alongside the emergency services on daily safety matters and large-scale regional emergencies.”

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About the Next Generation Critical Communications Executive Governance Board

The NGCC Board includes: Kerry Gregory (Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency NZ), Richard Chambers (Commissioner of Police), Peter Bradley (Chief Executive of Hato Hone St John), and Dan Pallister-Coward (Chief Executive of Wellington Free Ambulance). They are joined by Dave Gawn, Chief Executive of the National Emergency Management Agency.

Mr Sowry joins NGCC's other independent directors consisting of: Rob Fyfe (Board Chair), Deborah Battell (Commercial), Greg Lowe (Commercial) and TJ Kennedy (International).

About Next Generation Critical Communications Poutama Whai Tikanga Pāpāho

Formed in 2020, Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC) is the government's leading advisor on critical communications for public safety. NGCC's mission is to modernise the communications capability of New Zealand's emergency responders to deliver more information, to more places in real time through the Public Safety Network and other emergency grade communication solutions.

In November, Cabinet approved an [extended mandate](#) for NGCC meaning from 1 July it will be established as a Schedule 4A Crown company positioned to offer services to the hundreds of organisations involved in public safety and emergency management.

About the Public Safety Network Te Kupenga Marutau

The Public Safety Network (PSN) is a significant infrastructure and services project investing \$1.4 billion over 10 years to build and operate, and roll out new devices to Police, Hato Hone St John, Fire and Emergency NZ and Wellington Free Ambulance staff, stations and vehicles. The PSN consists of three complementary elements forming a reliable, resilient communications ecosystem: a 500 site [digital land mobile radio network](#), [cellular services](#) and personal alerting.