

Media release

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New Next Generation Critical Communications Board member appointed to continue Public Safety Network's momentum

Chair of Next Generation Critical Communications Poutama Whai Tikanga Pāpāho, Rob Fyfe, today announced the appointment of business leader Greg Lowe as an independent member on the Executive Governance Board of Next Generation Critical Communications (NGCC).

The Next Generation Critical Communications Executive Governance Board was established in 2020 to oversee the establishment of the NGCC Lead Entity and to have ongoing oversight of the development and delivery of the Public Safety Network Te Kupenga Marutau for Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Police, Hato Hone St John and Wellington Free Ambulance.

"I am delighted to welcome Greg Lowe to the Next Generation Critical Communications Executive Governance Board. Greg brings a proven track record in governance and is recognised as a business leader who successfully delivers complex infrastructure builds. He has a strong service ethos which is well-aligned with the Public Safety Network's emergency services customers evidenced by his earlier Navy career and contribution to multiple government advisory groups," Mr Fyfe said.

"Greg joins NGCC at an important time as delivery of the Public Safety Network's Cellular Services continues on time and on budget, and there's good progress on the new Land Mobile Radio network with a pilot underway in South Canterbury."

Mr Lowe says, "I'm so pleased to be joining the NGCC Board to build on the organisation's significant achievements for New Zealand's emergency services. This investment in common communications infrastructure and services for our emergency responders is an intelligent, strategic move benefitting our frontline teams and ultimately, the wellbeing and prosperity of all communities."

Mr Fyfe says, "The new critical communications capability NGCC is delivering will greatly support the operations and safety of the emergency services in their everyday work, as well as for large scale climate-related events."

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About the Next Generation Critical Communications Executive Governance Board

The NGCC Board includes the most senior executive representatives from the Emergency Services: Kerry Gregory (Chief Executive of Fire and Emergency NZ), Andrew Coster (Commissioner of Police), Peter Bradley (Chief Executive of Hato Hone St John), and Dave Robinson (Chief Executive of Wellington Free Ambulance). They are joined by Dave Gawn, Chief Executive of the National Emergency Management Agency.

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

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. www.ngcc.govt.nz

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 network, 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. There is scope for other public safety organisations to join in the future and further services to be added.

There are contracts in place with Tait Systems (Land Mobile Radio network) and Hourua (Cellular Services) to build and operate the Public Safety Network's solutions.