

MITIGATION MEASURES

This list of examples identifies possible ways to mitigate negative implications of your policy on the rural community – it is intended as a guide to prompt innovative solutions.

»» CONNECTION INFRASTRUCTURE

- › Hold consultation meetings and hui in rural areas and at appropriate times recognising the distances and time rural people have to travel.
- › Make printed copies of documents readily available.
- › Allow sufficient time for rural people to participate. Recognise any extra communication lags (for example, postal delivery timeframes).
- › Regulate minimum service standards or supply obligations (for example, Telecommunications Service Obligations).
- › Fund minimum service standards, recognising provision costs may be higher in rural areas.
- › Encourage shared use of facilities (for example, single location for mobile phone tower installations).
- › Modify delivery methods (for example, satellite rather than terrestrial delivery of free-to-air broadcast services, minimising the electronic size of documents to ease transmission).
- › Use provincial and rural media to communicate with rural people.

»» ACCESS TO SERVICES

- › Subsidise or provide free transport services (for example, funding school buses and emergency helicopters, providing transport assistance to access health services).
- › Take services out into rural areas (for example, mobile delivery of surgical services).
- › Provide base funding, per delivery centre, in recognition that some costs are relatively constant regardless of scale (for example, base funding per school).
- › Modify funding formulas to take into account higher per capita costs of delivery in rural areas (for example, modified population-based funding of district health boards).
- › Target funding to assist or encourage provision in rural areas or improve access for rural people.
- › Encourage combined servicing of several providers of similar services (for example, one administration provider for two or more schools).
- › Share premises or staff with other agencies (for example, Heartland Service Centres).

»» EASE AND COST OF COMPLIANCE

- › Require delivery in isolated rural areas (for example, VTNZ's contractual obligations to provide commercial vehicle inspection services at isolated rural locations).
- › Enable alternative delivery methods to improve accessibility (for example, allowing appointments to sit a driver's licence to be made over the telephone rather than in person).
- › Provide exemptions or concessions in particular situations (for example, exemption from Warrant of Fitness for slow moving agricultural vehicles).
- › Provide lead in time for implementation, to allow a competitive market to develop where compliance involves private sector provision (for example, choice of qualified engineers to meet dam safety requirements).

