



02 AUG 2021

Michael Vaughan
fyi-request-15680-d0d41684@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your email of 3 June 2021 regarding the safety of radio transmissions and the impact of satellites on the environment.

New Zealand receives a range of payload applications with various purposes. All satellites (referred to as payloads) regardless of applicant or type must comply with the requirements in the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 (OSHAA). I take my responsibilities under the Act seriously, and every applicant for a permit must provide whatever information is necessary to ensure I am satisfied that the requirements have been met. The OSHAA has been developed to encourage space activity that minimises risk to the public and we continue to consider issues of space sustainability and the impact of the industry on the environment.

In 2019, Cabinet made explicit a set of principles guiding all my decisions on national interest for space activities authorised by New Zealand. These principles are:

- Responsibility – space activities from New Zealand should promote an orbital environment where users avoid causing harm or interference with the activities of others.
- Sustainability – space activities from New Zealand should preserve the benefits of space for future generations through adherence to sustainable practices.
- Safety – space activities from New Zealand should not jeopardise the safety of people on the ground or in space.
- Space activities authorised by the Government should reflect New Zealand's values and interests, and align with broader policy settings.

Space technology can make the world a better and safer place, and provide services we all benefit from, including in banking, transport, agriculture, telecommunications, security, and climate change and environmental monitoring. New Zealand recognises the importance of guardianship and sustainable management of space and our sky, which we implement through our regulatory regime and our approach to space activities generally.

In regards to your question on 5G, no payloads launched from New Zealand provide 5G services. Radio communications and 5G technologies are regulated by Radio Spectrum Management in the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. These rules include limits on radiofrequency exposure for the public, following advice from the Ministry of Health. These limits on exposure are more than 50 times lower than the levels at which adverse effects might occur and protect people of all ages, including children.

Issues of space sustainability and the impact of the space industry on the environment will continue to be considered. It is important to recognise however that the positive impact of space based data and services for understanding climate change and mitigating or reducing environmental harm is immense.

Thank you again for your email and engagement on the important topic of space.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Nash', written in a cursive style.

Hon Stuart Nash
Minister for Economic and Regional Development