Internet Rights and Freedoms Bill

*Protecting human rights in the digital environment, a crowdsourced **Internet Rights and Freedoms Bill** for New Zealand*

The background

New Zealand needs a free, open, and thriving Internet. The Internet should be an open platform built on free speech, innovation, and democracy. It's time to develop positive, rights-affirming Internet law to protect human rights in both the online and offline world.

A free and open Internet lies at the heart of a thriving digital economy. The Internet forges connections between people, information and resources – it is a platform for innovation, discovery and democratic participation.

While the Internet ecosystem can enhance human rights, laws and actions relating to the Internet can also undermine them. In New Zealand we have witnessed a shift towards laws that restrict, rather than protect, our rights and freedoms on the Internet.

Excessive government control and surveillance over cyberspace stifles innovation, free speech and global interconnectivity. After concerns on NSA mass surveillance, the GCSB's spying and the unpopular Skynet copyright law passed under urgency that allowed Internet accounts to be terminated for copyright infringement; it is time to develop new, rights-based law to protect our human rights online.

The Green Party solution

The future of the Internet lies in the hands of all New Zealanders, not just policy makers and politicians. Law makers have a responsibility to listen to the people and to enable everyone to be an active part of the legislative process. The Green Party stands behind digital democracy and will introduce New Zealand's first crowdsourced Internet Rights and Freedoms Bill.

The Bill will be a launching pad for a public debate around Internet freedom and introduces three key elements:

- 10 Internet Rights and Freedoms
- An Internet Rights Commissioner
- A Chief Technology Officer

The Internet Rights and Freedoms Bill will grow and evolve through crowdsourcing: the ideas and feedback of New Zealanders and stakeholders will directly influence the final draft of the Bill.

We believe in a progressive digital future for New Zealand and believe every New Zealander should enjoy the right to express what values they want protected on the Internet in an accessible, engaging and democratic way.

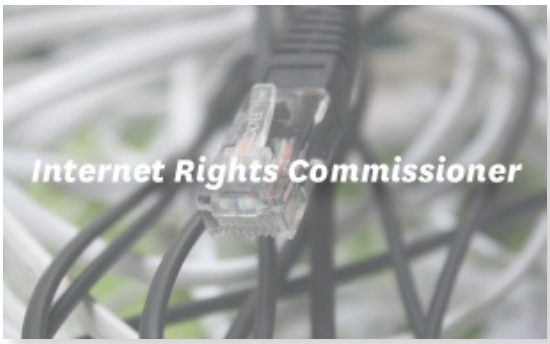
10 Internet Rights and Freedoms

1. *The right to access*
2. *Freedom from search, surveillance and interception*
3. *Freedom of expression*
4. *Freedom of association*
5. *Right to privacy*
6. *Right to encryption technology*
7. *Right to anonymity*
8. *Right to a safe and secure Internet*
9. *Freedom of innovation*
10. *Freedom from restriction*

The three key elements

10 Internet Rights and Freedoms

The 10 rights and freedoms protected in the Internet Rights and Freedoms Bill aim to support a safe, innovative and resilient digital environment for New Zealand. They enhance existing rights for the online world such as freedom of expression and association; and contain new digitally-inspired rights such as the right to encryption and ensuring net neutrality as part of the right to access. The Bill proposes a new right to privacy, not currently enshrined in New Zealand law, to protect Kiwis' private data and metadata from the risks created by new technology and software in cyberspace. Out of the right to privacy the Bill proposes the right to be forgotten, which allows users the right to request that selective data be deleted.



Internet Rights Commissioner

The role of the Internet Rights Commissioner would be to engage the New Zealand public on issues affecting human rights on the Internet; and to work towards stronger protection of these rights through legal analysis, policies and enforcement. The Commissioner would also facilitate remedies for online human rights violations through the Human Rights Review Tribunal.

Chief Technology Officer

The Chief Technology Officer would be a champion for technology and the Internet economy. The Officer would research future challenges, opportunities and risks facing New Zealand's digital future; recommend strategies for bridging the digital divide, promote sustainable ICT products and services, increase access for disadvantaged groups and recommend best practice guidelines for the ICT industry.

The Next Steps

Looking to the future, the 10 rights and freedoms protected in the Internet Rights and Freedoms Bill and new roles proposed could play an important role in influencing how we protect human rights in New Zealand's digital environment.

We must respect the voice of New Zealand's ICT community and promote Internet laws which protect and further human rights. New Zealand needs to work towards becoming a digitally inclusive society which supports growth, development and innovation over the Internet, not one which stymies progress through silencing free speech and restricting access to information on the Internet.

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New Zealand can also support international efforts to promote Internet rights like privacy and develop ways to promote and strengthen citizens' control over their personal data.

We have the chance to work together to build an open, innovative, resilient digital future for New Zealand.

The Internet freedom conversation starts now at: *www.internetrightsbill.org.nz*

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