

ATTACHMENT 1

Expert Credentials K Douglas Birt, MBA, BE (Elect) CMEngNZ (Life Member)

Career Summary:

- **33 ½ years in NZPO/Telecom**
 - 25 years as a Telecommunications Engineer.
 - I started off as trouble-shooter, solving a wide variety of engineering issues including power systems, cable plant design, radio systems, air conditioning systems, telex exchange billing and ended up as Project Engineer for the first Auckland to Wellington Microwave Radio System in 1972/73.
 - The last 12 years I was in Whangarei, culminating as Network Manager for the whole of Northland for all telephone exchanges, cable plant, electronic transmission systems, and radio and telegraph systems.
 - In Northland my duties included supervising all radio operations, including the design, installation and operation of all HF, VHF, and SHF systems, and contracted the maintenance work for Ministry of Transport, including staffed and automatic light-houses.
 - 8 years in managerial positions in the new commercialised Telecom SOE, commencing as General Manager Business Strategy in Telecom Auckland Ltd. I became very knowledgeable about telecommunications economics, business commercial strategy, and leading edge technical advancements which were then under development, but which have become commonplace today. It was at this time that I obtained my Executive MBA degree.
- **14 ½ years as a Senior Manager in Local Government**
 - 2 years at Franklin District Council, where I experienced the problems of seven different councils pursuing 7 different strategies – and I was on the first inter-Council CDEM Steering Committee
 - 12 ½ years at Gisborne District Council (a Unitary Council) as Group Manager Corporate Services, in charge of many aspects including Finance, Legal, IT, HR, Customer Service, and the political process.
 - A significant problem that taxed me in these roles was Business Continuity Planning, and how to keep the business of Local Government going if faced with telecommunications disruption. My detailed awareness of telecommunications engineering, and knowing the fragility of the network infrastructure that was being delivered to customers, provided a major on-going concern, because no-one would officially admit to this fragility. In this role I was very conscious of the dependence that the Council, and the nation, would have on infrastructure-free communications systems in the event of catastrophe.

In Retirement

- Finance Controller at a local Hibiscus Coast Church
- Pro-bono consultant to a private Internet Company, providing a wireless Internet network in the Gisborne region to an area comprising 5% of the total land mass of NZ – a network which is largely independent of fragile land-lines and power grid.
- Local Government Liaison Officer (LGLO) to the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters (NZART), charged with consulting with local government for the provision of amateur radio configurations in District Plans throughout NZ. In 2020 I received the prestigious award “Radio Amateur of the Year”
- Director of Club Services in the Rotary Club of Whangaparaoa. In 2020 I received the prestigious award “Rotarian of the Year”
- Secretary of the Hibiscus Coast Radio Society Inc.
- Radio Amateur experimenter for 57 years.
- Currently I have taken on the task of Project Managing the completion of, and the launching of, an amateur satellite “Kiwisat”.