

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

COASTERS ENJOY CYBERSPACE

E-commerce and ultra-fast telecommunication allow people to live on the Coast and enjoy all the benefits of business, a great lifestyle and access to an incredible recreation spectrum.

- 97% of regional phone lines can access a broadband infrastructure network
- Fibre-optic cable backbone throughout the region
- Satellite connections are affordable for most remote communities
- E-commerce is the way of business for many companies
- Most tourism businesses have websites

As part of the Government's \$24 million **Digital Strategy Initiative**, Development West Coast worked collaboratively with Government and Telecom to expand the telecommunications infrastructure network in the region.

Remote communities have access to global markets as a result of Development West Coast playing a major role in bringing better broadband infrastructure and IT to the region.

Government information, services and processes, including business and enterprise support can be accessed. Government departments, such as the Department of Conservation, can make contact with staff in more remote areas. Coasters can take part in the **ECAT (E-commerce action team)** connecting businesses, tertiary institutions, groups and individuals that have interest in driving the uptake of e-commerce (www.ecat.govt.nz).

The New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) **Enterprise Training Programme (ETP)** upskills owner/operators of small to medium businesses to help them develop and grow their e-commerce skills. Enterprise and BIZ programmes are provided locally by Development West Coast.

