

## Calls to investigate broadband company for espionage

By Adam Ray

Huawei's facing growing problems in the US, where the government says it faces a serious cyber espionage threat from the Chinese

Opposition parties want an investigation into the Chinese company Huawei, which is building ultra-fast broadband networks in Waikato and Canterbury.

The Australian government has already blocked Huawei from work on its national broadband project, citing fears about national security.

But the Government here says it isn't worried.

The Greens say our Government needs to put the company under the spotlight.

"It's been implicated in security breaches and that's why the Americans and Australians are concerned," says Co-leader of the Green Party Russel Norman. "We think it would be stupid if we didn't have concerns."

The Government's not saying what advice it's had about Huawei, but it won't be following Australia's lead.

"I am not going to comment on specific vendors," says National MP Amy Adams. "But I have said that the Government gets excellent advice and we take security concerns very seriously."

Huawei has been in New Zealand for seven years. It built Vodafone's fixed-line broadband and also supplies equipment to 2degrees.

It's a key supplier for ultra-fast broadband projects in the central North Island and Canterbury.

But Huawei's facing growing problems in the US, where the government says it faces a serious cyber espionage threat from the Chinese.

Mr Norman says our Government is too concerned about annoying China to investigate Huawei.

"They feel like they upset them enough with the Crafar decision and don't want to do it again," he says.

A Huawei spokesman in New Zealand told 3 News that there's no substance to claims it was linked to internet espionage. He said the company had met all the requirements set by the Government here.

Andrew Colarik, a University of Auckland computer expert, says banning Huawei would serve little purpose to make the new network safer. He says broadband networks are vulnerable to hacking, whoever builds them.