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VakaNet & Starlink Comparison

This comparison outlines the **total cost of ownership (TCO)**, **performance**, and key **features** of the standard VakaNet and Starlink services in the Cook Islands. The aim of this document is to assist customers in **making informed decisions** when choosing their service provider.

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VakaNet & Starlink Cost Comparison

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Many customers choose their ISP by comparing only the **monthly subscription cost**. However, when considering the **total cost of ownership (TCO),** including installation & equipment, **VakaNet proves to be competitively priced**, if not more cost-effective.

Cost Factor	VakaNet Residential	VakaNet Business	Starlink Residential Lite	Starlink Residential
Subscription (monthly)	$ 125	$ 225	$ 59	$ 202
Average power consumption cost (monthly)	$ 14.5	$ 14.5	$ 51.5	$ 51.5
Standard CPE hardware (one-off)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 622*	$ 622*
Standard installation (one-off)	$ 175	$ 175	$ 0	$ 0
6 months TCO	$ 1,006	$ 1,606	$ 1,285	$ 2,143
9 months TCO	$ 1,422	$ 2,322	$ 1,617	$ 2,904
12 months TCO	$ 1,837	$ 3,037	$ 1,948	$ 3,664
18 months TCO	$ 2,668	$ 4,468	$ 2,611	$ 5,185
24 months TCO	$ 3,499	$ 5,899	$ 3,274	$ 6,706

*__Note__: The **Starlink Mini** terminal kit ($369) is **not included** in this comparison matrix, as it is designed primarily for **occasional use during travel**. Using Starlink Mini for a fixed connection **requires additional accessories** (such as cables) and a separate WiFi access point or router, bringing the total cost of hardware to around the same or **higher than the Standard kit**. Additionally, due to its design, the Starlink Mini terminal **does not support high speeds** and is significantly **less stable**.

VakaNet & Starlink Performance Comparison

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Beyond just cost, customers should carefully **evaluate performance**, as it is often **underestimated or overestimated**. Factors such as latency, jitter, reliability, and real-time applications performance play a crucial role in the **overall experience**.

Parameter	VakaNet	Starlink
Average latency (to Australia)	100 ms	60 ms
Jitter	10 ms	40 ms
Service availability	≥99.5%	≥99%
Advertised downlink bandwidth*	100-150 Mbps	50-250 Mbps
Advertised uplink bandwidth*	100-150 Mbps	8-25 Mbps
FAP / FUP (Fair Usage Policy)	Mild, applies to <2% of sessions	Unclear and varying
Weather resilience	Excellent	Average
Gaming experience	Excellent	Average
Real-time performance (video calls, etc.)	Excellent	Average

*Note: According to the latest **global data**, the **average data consumption** of an active residence with high-speed broadband is **under 500 GB per month**. At this usage level, any connection with speeds above **20 Mbps is sufficient** to meet the **average household's needs**. While ultra-high speeds can be convenient for occasional large downloads and updates, in today's reality, speeds of 100+ Mbps are primarily a **marketing tool** rather than a necessity.

VakaNet & Starlink Features Comparison

Beyond price and speed, customers should also consider **value-added features** that enhance the overall service experience. For many, these features can be the **deciding factor** when choosing an ISP**.**

Feature	VakaNet	Starlink
Type of connection*	Fiber / Microwave	Satellite (LEO)
Power consumption	Low	High
Static public IPv4 support	Yes	No
IPv6 support	Yes	Yes
Local customer support	Yes	No
Local equipment warranty	Yes	No
Usage policy consistency	Consistent	Varying
WiFi generation	WiFi6 by default	WiFi6 for Standard Gen3 and above
Type of install	Requires technician	Self-install
Connecting additional LAN equipment	Easy	Complex
Payment options	Credit card, bank transfer, cash	Credit card only

*****Note**: **Digital sovereignty** and **diversity** are important to keep in mind. It is essential to maintain a **balance** between terrestrial networks (fiber and microwave) and satellite connectivity, with satellites serving as a crucial **complement** by providing coverage in **remote areas** and ensuring connectivity **during emergencies**.

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