



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

\$9.8m REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY GRANT TO UPGRADE KING ISLAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Sketchy phone services, black spots and slow data speeds has King Island residents calling our connection 'third world'.

The King Island Council will contribute more than \$800,000 to a \$9.84million Regional Connectivity Program grant to upgrade of the island's telecommunications announced by the Federal Minister for Communications, Paul Fletcher MP.

"This is a huge investment in infrastructure by Council, the Federal Government, Telstra and the Tasmanian Government and reflects the growing importance band width and required access to strong and consistent mobile phone signal for residents, businesses as well as the King Island's economy generally," said Mayor Julie Arnold.

"Projects like this don't just happen, much work has been undertaken by Telstra staff, working with their customers and Council, to put the project together," said Mayor Arnold.

"After attending many Telstra meetings, I've personally learned much about the band width and such.

"Council also acknowledges the work of Gavin Pearce MP, who has really championed our cause in Canberra and with Telstra and the State Government.

Council also acknowledges the State Government's commitment. Without the commitment of funds from Council and State Government, the project would probably not have been successful."

Telstra will undertake the project to significantly increase the total data capacity to King Island and reduce the chances of future communication blackouts.



The project upgrade includes:

- A new high capacity Inter-Island microwave link to Victoria
- Install fibre optic from Cape Wickham tower to existing fibre at the King Island Dairy to future proof the intra-island transmission network
- Install fibre optic cable to Naracoopa
- Install fibre optic cable to Grassy Harbour
- New mobile small cell sites at Currie, Naracoopa and Grassy to improve coverage

Telstra anticipate the works could start within six months of the funding being made available and be completed within two years.

Further information:

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