



## **THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP**

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts

## **MR GAVIN PEARCE MP**

Federal Member for Braddon

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

23 April 2021

### **Improved digital connectivity for King Island and Tasmania**

Mobile connectivity on King Island is set for a major upgrade with \$9.8 million through the Morrison Government's Regional Connectivity Program.

The project will improve the telecommunications network on King Island by upgrading the microwave transmission link between Victoria and King Island, increasing the available capacity by more than six-fold. The upgrade will also deliver several new 4G sites built on the island, and existing sites upgraded to provide new and enhanced mobile services to residents and businesses.

Announcing the project this morning from Currie in King Island with the Minister for Communications, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, the Federal Member for Braddon, Mr Gavin Pearce MP, said the Regional Connectivity Program's highly-localised approach to improving connectivity will create real change in regional communities across Tasmania, none more so than on King Island.

"This is a great day. For decades, politicians from all sides have been visiting King Island, promising to improve communications. Today, my promise to King Island becomes a reality."

"High-speed, reliable broadband and mobile services will be a game changer for King Island. Connectivity equals opportunities: opportunities for students to reach their full potential; opportunities for businesses to flourish; opportunities for families to stay connected to loved ones; opportunities for tourism and industry to develop. The list goes on and on."

Through the Regional Connectivity Program, more than \$14.6 million, including \$8 million in direct RCP funding, will fund five projects in Tasmania, including increasing bandwidth capacity to nine regional schools, upgrading technology in Geeveston to support local industries, increasing capacity at the Greenhill Observatory to enhance Australia's sovereign space capability and upgrading mobile coverage in Jericho – one of the oldest townships in Australia.

The Morrison Government is contributing \$90.3 million (GST inclusive) to the RCP Program nationally.

#### **Media contacts**

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**Regional Connectivity Program – Projects in Tasmania**

Applicant	Project Name	Location	Project	Benefits	Total value of the project
Fortytwo24 Pty Ltd	Enhancing Australia's Sovereign Space Capability	Melton Mowbray	The project will deploy an optical fibre extension between the Midlands Highway and Bisdee Tier to provide 10 Gbps data capacity to the Greenhill Observatory operated by the University of Tasmania.	Improved connectivity at the Greenhill Observatory will allow UTAS and Tasmania to access applied commercial development opportunities in the burgeoning space industry, in partnership with government, local and international companies, and research agencies. This will assist to diversify the Tasmanian economy towards a high-value industry.	\$638,000
Huon Valley Council	Geeveston Fixed Wireless to Fibre to the Premise Technology Change	Geeveston	The project will upgrade the NBN access technology in the Huon Valley town of Geeveston from Fixed Wireless to Fibre to the Premises.	The upgrade will support improved connectivity for a number of local industries, as well as for health centres and local schools.	\$2.4 million
Telstra	Jericho	Jericho	The project will upgrade antenna equipment and backhaul capacity at the existing 3G Telstra base station in Jericho to provide Telstra 4GX and Internet of Things coverage to the town and surrounding areas.	The upgrade will enable increased commuter safety along a major transport route, as well as improving the attractiveness of the area as a tourist location.	\$317,600
Telstra	King Island	King Island	The project will upgrade the telecommunications network on King Island by upgrading the microwave transmission link between Victoria and King Island to significantly increase capacity, as well as deploying several new 4G sites and upgrading existing mobile network facilities across the island.	Provide new and enhanced mobile services to King Island residents and businesses.	\$9.8 million
Telstra	TAS Schools	Wesley Vale, Bagdad, Dunally, Forest, Glen Huon, Molesworth, Nubeena, Yolla, Sheffield	The project will upgrade and extend wideband connectivity to nine regional schools in Tasmania. This will involve the extension of new fibre to the schools as well as core transmission capacity upgrades to enable high-speed data services. The upgrade will also provide broader	Increase capacity to meet schools' bandwidth requirements.	\$1.4 million

			improvements to Telstra services in each community.		
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