



## Building a better network and transforming connectivity on King Island

**EMBARGOED 12:01AM Friday 23 April 2021, CURRIE TAS:** King Island will benefit from an upgrade project that will transform connectivity on the island, improve mobile coverage, boost capacity and data speeds and strengthen network resilience.

The project is supported by a \$9.8 million investment jointly co-funded by Telstra, King Island Council, the Tasmanian Government, and the Federal Government as part of the Regional Connectivity Program.

Telstra Regional General Manager Michael Patterson today joined the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts; Gavin Pearce MP, Member for Braddon, Cr Julie Arnold, King Island Council Mayor and locals in Currie to announce the once-in-a-generation project.

“This multi-million-dollar transformative project will future-proof connectivity on King Island, help bridge the digital divide experienced on the island and, importantly, improve digital inclusion,” Mr Patterson said.

“This investment will boost Telstra’s mobile network and improve coverage through new infrastructure, new and upgraded mobile sites and better network resiliency.

“Brand new infrastructure will deliver up to six times more capacity onto the island, bringing faster speeds so King Islanders can stream HD video content, do business, take online education, video calls and download data, just as well as anyone else in Tasmania or anywhere else in the country.

“King Island’s newly upgraded mobile network will be more resilient than ever thanks to a brand-new high-capacity microwave radio link which will be built to connect Cape Wickham to Victoria’s Surf Coast.

“Stretching more than 110km across Bass Strait from King Island to Victoria, the new high-capacity link will be the longest radio link over water we’ve built anywhere on Telstra’s network.”

The project includes:

- Brand new mobile coverage with two new mobile sites built at Naracoopa and Yambacoona
- Improved mobile coverage with two new small cell sites built at Currie and Grassy
- 4GX upgrades at Lymwood, Loorana and Cape Wickham
- 37km of new fibre optic cable laid on King Island as part of the infrastructure roll out
- A new radio link, connecting Cape Wickham to Victoria over Bass Strait to provide greater resiliency
- Up to six times more bandwidth and capacity onto the island, allowing for greater speeds and more capacity to do business, education and provide for HD services such as video calling.

“This is a great example of what can be achieved when Telstra partners with all levels of government to deliver valuable infrastructure to regional and remote communities across Australia,” Mr Patterson said.

“We are continuing to deliver for regional Australia through our own investments and also collaborative investments like the recently completed Flinders Island project, Mobile Black Spot Program and ongoing Telstra 5G roll out in regional areas.”

Detailed planning work is being finalised ahead of work starting before the end of 2021.

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