

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business

Minister for Resources



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VICTORIAN BUSINESSES TO GET FASTER BROADBAND IN 120 AREAS

Thousands of Victorian businesses can look forward to better internet connections, with the Victorian Government and NBN Co striking a landmark deal to improve connections around the state.

The Government is investing \$73 million as part of the agreement, which will see broadband upgrades delivered in 120 locations across Victoria over the next two years through the \$550 million *Connecting Victoria* program.

The first round of upgrades will see up to 10,000 Victorian businesses in 12 locations get access to faster and more reliable internet – making it easier for them to handle large files, video conference and capture real-time data.

Businesses in Pakenham North, Pakenham South, Cranbourne South, Dromana, Lara, Colac, Hamilton, Portland, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Warragul and Benalla will be the first to benefit from the roll out.

The improvements will see NBN build infrastructure for improved fibre connections free of charge, with businesses only needing to pay to connect to the service.

Currently, if a business wants a fibre connection they need to pay for the building of the fibre as well as a contract. The Victorian Government is subsidising the infrastructure to minimise costs for businesses, leaving them to only pay for their internet plan.

With improved internet speeds up to 1 gigabit per second and 24/7 support from NBN Co, businesses will be able to move more of their operations online.

Businesses in the first 12 towns and sites will be able to contact their internet provider to order the new connections from September 1.

These are the first of many broadband improvements that will be delivered, with *Connecting Victoria* investing \$250 million to improve broadband.

As part of the *Connecting Victoria* program, the Government is calling for community feedback on places where better broadband and mobile connectivity is most needed.

For more information or to submit feedback, visit vic.gov.au/connectingvictoria.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford

“Improving internet connections around the state will allow businesses to expand, do things differently and employ more people.”

“This will give regional businesses the opportunity to connect to high-speed and high-capacity Enterprise Ethernet at no upfront cost – on par with what’s on offer in Melbourne’s CBD.”

Quotes attributable to NBN CEO Stephen Rue

“We are delighted to work with the Victorian Government to identify opportunities to co-invest in the development and delivery of new NBN infrastructure to support small and medium businesses.”

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