

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Employment

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy

Minister for Small Business



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FREE PUBLIC WIFI TO CONTINUE IN MELBOURNE'S CBD

Free WiFi will continue to be available in the CBD for Melbournians and tourists alike with the Andrews Labor Government extending the service.

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford today announced the free public WiFi throughout Melbourne's CBD will continue for another two years.

The VicFreeWiFi service is available outdoors at more than 400 hotspots, including at all train stations, the Bourke St Mall, Queen Victoria Market, and South Wharf Promenade at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

Users can access up to 1GB per day per device, free of advertising and without the need to log-in or submit personal details.

Free public WiFi makes it easier for those in the CBD to access public transport time tables as well as booking nearby restaurants and tickets to major events.

The VicFreeWiFi pilot in Melbourne launched in 2016 and was one of the largest free public WiFi network of its kind in Australia.

Since then, the Melbourne service has been used more than 45 million times with more than 430 terabytes of data downloaded.

Free public WiFi is also available in Ballarat, Bendigo and Shepparton, and work is underway to deliver free WiFi networks in Geelong, Latrobe Valley and Ararat.

The Government's \$550 million Connecting Victoria program is fast-tracking improvements to mobile coverage and broadband access across the state. More connectivity projects in locations across the state will be announced throughout 2022.

The service is delivered in partnership with telco TPG and to find the VicFreeWiFi hotspots in Melbourne's CBD visit vic.gov.au/find-vicfreewifi-hotspots-victoria.

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

"Melbourne's CBD has had a tough two years but with a packed calendar of events, full theatres, bars and restaurants we are helping everyone to stay connected."

Quote attributable to Acting Melbourne Lord Mayor Nicholas Reece

"Melbournians are online more than ever before and we are thrilled that they will have access to free WiFi when they're in our smart, connected city."

Quote attributable TPG Telecom General Manager Chris Russo

"TPG Telecom is very pleased to continue our partnership with the Victorian state government as we work together to keep the people of Melbourne and its visitors connected."

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