

# 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



Monday, 6 June 2022

## WARRNAMBOOL TO GET IMPROVED MOBILE CONNECTIVITY

The Andrews Labor Government is improving mobile connectivity in the greater Warrnambool area with upgrades to existing towers through the Connecting Victoria program.

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford today announced the partnership with telco Optus, upgrading seven mobile stations from 4G to 5G.

The upgrades will cover 285 square kilometres in Allansford, Dennington and Warrnambool, including the Warrnambool Base Hospital and the Deakin University Warrnambool Campus, benefiting more than 21,500 premises.

Victorians living, working and holidaying in these areas will benefit from improved mobile connectivity as the upgrades are carried out between 2023 and 2024.

Earlier this year the Government released the Connecting Victoria engagement report, voicing the needs of more than 11,000 Victorians for better mobile and broadband connections.

Key feedback from the report made it clear that connectivity helps create a good visitor experience in key tourism hotspots like Warrnambool.

This investment in upgrades to infrastructure will deliver better mobile services where they are most needed, helping to grow businesses, create jobs and connect more Victorians to loved ones.

The Government's \$550 million Connecting Victoria program is fast-tracking improvements to mobile coverage and broadband access across the state.

More Connecting Victoria projects in locations across the state will be announced throughout 2022. To keep up to date, visit [vic.gov.au/connectingvictoria](https://vic.gov.au/connectingvictoria).

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

*"Connectivity gaps are holding back businesses and affecting people's everyday lives, so we're helping Victorians access reliable mobile coverage no matter where they live."*

*"We're approaching whale-watching season in Warrnambool and busy times like this highlight how important mobile connectivity is in helping tourism businesses to scale up and thrive."*

### Quote attributable to Optus Vice President of Regulatory and Public Affairs Andrew Sheridan

*"This investment will be critical in hardening the mobile network, minimising connectivity outages and keeping more Victorians connected when it matters most."*

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