

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



Thursday, 11 August 2022

BOOSTING MOBILE CONNECTIVITY IN GREATER BENDIGO

The Andrews Labor Government is improving mobile connectivity in Bendigo with a new mobile tower and upgrades to existing infrastructure.

Minister for Innovation, Medical Research and the Digital Economy Jaala Pulford today announced partnerships with telcos Optus and TPG Telecom to build a new tower and upgrade 13 mobile towers in the area from 4G to 5G through the Labor Government's Connecting Victoria program.

Coverage will span Golden Square, Flora Hill and Kennington, as well as Epsom, Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat, and out to Newbridge, Ravenswood, Huntly North and Ladys Pass.

Optus and TPG Telecom have agreed to share infrastructure at some of these sites, giving locals a choice of mobile provider and improving competition.

The work will be carried out between 2023 and 2025. It will deliver improved services across more than 355 square kilometres in Bendigo, benefiting more than 100,000 premises.

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 improved mobile services are needed in this area to keep pace with population growth, helping to boost tourism and the local economy.

The Government's \$550 million Connecting Victoria program is fast-tracking improvements to mobile coverage and broadband access across the state. More projects in locations across the state will be announced throughout 2022. To keep up to date, visit vic.gov.au/connectingvictoria.

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

"We're delivering upgrades to infrastructure in regional centres like Bendigo because all Victorians deserve to have access to reliable mobile coverage."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

"This will deliver greater connectivity, competition and choice for the people, community and businesses of Bendigo."

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

"These upgrades will be a game-changer for residents, tourists and businesses in Bendigo - enabling 5G will provide higher speed and greater capacity and keep up with growth in this region."

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

"Optus wishes to thank the Victorian Government for their significant investment which will go a long way in strengthening the mobile infrastructure in Bendigo."

Quote attributable to TPG Telecom Head of Infrastructure Strategy & Integrated Planning Paul Tremlett

"We are proud to work with the Victorian Government on these important initiatives that are helping more Victorians connect."

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