

Tuesday April 26, 2005

BRACKS GOVERNMENT LEADS THE WAY ON BROADBAND

The Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Marsha Thomson, today released the Bracks Government's Broadband Framework positioning it as Australia's smartest and most strategic broadband user.

Ms Thomson said the Bracks Government was committed to improving government service delivery through new and innovative technologies and that access to broadband was critical to achieving that objective.

"We also recognise that by meeting Government's broadband needs strategically, there is the potential to create significant benefits to the broader community," Ms Thomson said.

"The Broadband Framework outlines the Government's strategic agenda for ensuring that government is able to utilise the most up-to-date technologies while delivering benefits to the community.

"As a government we have been very active when it comes to broadband, and the Framework outlines \$137 million in broadband initiatives already committed to by the Bracks Government.

"Over the next 18 months, the Bracks Government will progressively roll out additional broadband initiatives under the six strategies detailed in the Framework.

"As the largest consumer of broadband services in Victoria, the Bracks Government is in a position to deliver better telecommunications infrastructure for communities and businesses.

"For example, through the Telecommunications Purchasing and Management Strategy (TPAMS), the Victorian Government has brokered Australia's best telecommunications deal which includes the roll out of more than \$50M worth of infrastructure across the State, facilitating more competitive telecommunications markets and greater access to broadband services."

Broadband technology is delivering vital public services in the health and education sectors- from digital radiology services in north-east Victoria to fibre-optic infrastructure for Geelong, Ballarat, Bendigo and Traralgon through the regional fast rail project.

Ms Thomson said the Bracks Government is demonstrating its commitment to deliver better telecommunications infrastructure across Victoria.

"By prioritising the uptake of new technology, the establishment of the Government's Broadband Framework aims to ensure Victoria is one of the best connected communities and most effective users of broadband in the world," Ms Thomson said.

The Broadband Framework can be accessed online at www.mmv.vic.gov.au/broadband