



Media release

The Hon Dr Denis Napthine MP

Premier
Minister for Regional Cities
Minister for Racing

The Hon Peter Ryan MP

Deputy Premier
Minister for State Development
Minister for Regional and Rural
Development

Friday 14 March 2014

New free Wi-Fi initiative expands to central Ballarat

- **Free public Wi-Fi for central Ballarat**
- **Building a Better Victoria by providing fast, reliable and consistent Wi-Fi service**
- **Free Wi-Fi access for tourists, students, small businesses and locals**

Premier Denis Napthine and Deputy Premier Peter Ryan today announced Expressions of Interests (EOIs) to deliver free Public Wi-Fi in central Ballarat.

Dr Napthine said the Public Wi-Fi initiative would expand broadband connectivity to central Ballarat and provide significant benefits to the local community, businesses and tourists.

“The initiative aims to pilot fast, reliable and free Wi-Fi services in central Ballarat, in and around publicly owned infrastructure, including public transport hubs and tourist attractions for the next three to five years,” Dr Napthine said.

“Providing widespread free public Wi-Fi is part of the Victorian Coalition Government’s commitment to building a better Victoria.

“We are encouraging innovative EOIs that will ensure a reliable, sustainable, free service that is also filtered for prohibited and undesirable content,” Dr Napthine said.

“All responses will be assessed on their commercial viability with strong preference given to proposals where there is no ongoing cost to government, beyond any potential initial investment to establish the infrastructure.”

Deputy Premier Peter Ryan said the announcement was a great opportunity to integrate free Wi-Fi into Victoria’s regional centres.

“The Public Wi-Fi initiative is a key outcome of the Coalition Government’s ICT Strategy to improve public sector service delivery and boost small to medium business productivity,” Mr Ryan said.

“Locals and tourists visiting Ballarat will soon have a consistent Wi-Fi experience enabling them to share their experiences of regional Victoria including local tourist hubs with family and friends around the world.”

EOIs are open until Thursday 17 April 2014 with contracts expected to be awarded by midyear.

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