

FREE WI-FI FOR A SMART CITY

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Brisbane City Council's free wi-fi internet will be expanded across the CBD and into the popular James St precinct, part of a \$1 million expansion of Brisbane's smart-city credentials.

The new \$1.1 million contract awarded to Telstra will allow council's free wi-fi to have seamless integration from South Bank to the CBD, and in the Fortitude Valley Malls and James St precinct.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said free wi-fi was part of providing digital support across the city.

"From early next year, visitors will be able to stay connected as they move anywhere across the CBD – from the Botanic Gardens to Roma Street Station, City Reach Boardwalk across to Queen's Wharf – with the new James St precinct wi-fi to be launched mid next year," Cr Quirk said.

"We are creating more opportunities for residents and Brisbane businesses to take advantage of the digital economy, and delivering free wi-fi across our central business and retail areas is part of this commitment.

Last financial year, nearly 400,000 individual users accessed council's wi-fi hotspots in the city malls and were connected for an average of nearly 20 minutes. In total, there was one million sessions, with 37,505 of these in December in the Queen Street Mall.

Brisbane's Chief Digital Officer Cat Matson said access to free wi-fi would significantly improve the city's connectivity and access to digital services.

"The internet is part of everyday life, and access to free public wi-fi is now the new benchmark for modern cities. By enabling free connection to the internet we will encourage visitors to the city centre to linger a little longer," Ms Matson said.

“This is another milestone achievement for the Digital Strategy, the strategy advocated for a cyber-city program now it’s delivering ready access and free wi-fi across the city.”

The roll-out is expected to be completed by mid-next year.

LIVE SMART CONNECTED CITY FREE WI-FI

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