



John Barilaro

Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Industry and Trade

Dom Perrottet

Treasurer

MEDIA RELEASE

Sunday, 16 June 2019

NSW BUDGET: DIGITALLY CONNECTING REGIONAL NSW

Regional NSW is set to become more digitally connected than ever with the NSW Government committing \$400 million over the next four years to ensure families, businesses and emergency services have access to the very best mobile phone, internet and data services.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Regional NSW John Barilaro said the Regional Digital Connectivity program will invest in new data hubs and backhaul infrastructure to improve data and mobile connectivity for businesses.

“In regional NSW connectivity is king and if you are not connected you can’t compete.

“Not only do we want regional NSW to be competitive, we want to be the best in the world when it comes to attracting investment and exporting our first-class products.

“That’s why we are announcing \$90 million as a down payment in this year’s budget to make regional NSW mobile black spot free and digitally connected across every corner of the state.

“If we want to succeed in making regional NSW the number one destination in Australia to live, work, invest and play we need to conquer barriers around connectivity.

“The Regional Digital Connectivity program is a quantum leap in the right direction,” he said.

Mr Perrottet said this unparalleled investment is a turning point in connectivity for regional NSW.

“An initial investment of \$90 million in the 2019/20 Budget is the first stage of a four-year \$400 million down payment to better connect regional NSW, and ensure we lead the way when it comes to digital connectivity,” Mr Perrottet said.

“Regional Digital Connectivity will bring a more reliable, faster, and widespread digital network to people in our regions, ensuring they can access the services they need, like emergency services, without the worry of whether they have mobile phone reception, or a strong enough internet signal,” he said.

The Regional Digital Connectivity program will focus on three priority areas:

- Internet and data – Dubbo and Wagga Wagga will be the first locations to investigate the design of data hubs and fibre cables to make internet connectivity faster and more reliable.
- Farm and water – Infrastructure to enhance competitiveness and productivity for our farming industry.
- Mobile – eliminating mobile black spots where people live and work.

MEDIA: James Jooste | Deputy Premier | 0429 978 036
Emma Renwick | Treasurer | 0447 783 882