

Case studies

Delivering a strong signal to regional Western Australia



One of the three new small cell satellite installations at Karijini National Park

In the modern digital age, mobile connectivity is critical for unleashing the full potential of regional businesses and communities and building a sustainable future.

Our department is helping to provide this through the \$65m Regional Telecommunications Project (RTP), which is focused on improving high-speed mobile voice and data coverage in regional Western Australia.

The RTP is supplying both wide area coverage through large mobile base stations and highly targeted, local area coverage through small cell satellite installations, with a total of 231 new or improved mobile base stations being rolled out.

As at 30 June 2018, 182 sites were on-air, with the remaining 49 sites due for completion in 2018/19.

To capture the additional funding needed to deliver a rollout of this scale, the RTP partnered with the national Mobile Black Spot Program. This included contributing \$48.9m to secure partner co-contributions of \$124.6m from the Commonwealth Government and mobile network operators.

The impact of the RTP has been far-reaching, ranging from improving public safety and emergency response times, to connecting communities, supporting the delivery of online retail and government services, and improving market access for regional businesses.

In April 2018, Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan launched three mobile coverage services in Karijini National Park in the Pilbara.

These small cell satellite installations have a coverage radius of a few kilometres and represent a practical and cost-effective solution for remote locations where people congregate, such as small Aboriginal communities, roadhouses, campgrounds and station accommodation areas.