



**FLINDERS**  
COUNCIL

**MEDIA RELEASE**

02 August 2017

Flinders Council is celebrating Senator David Bushby's announcement yesterday that the Federal Liberal Government's Building Better Regions Fund will commit \$7,879,960 towards the Flinders and Cape Barren Islands Telecomms Transformation Project.

A total of nearly \$11 million made up of \$7,879,960 from the Federal Liberal Government, \$1.8M from Telstra, \$770,000 from the Flinders Council and \$350,000 from the Tasmanian Liberal Government, will completely overhaul the aged infrastructure currently providing limited internet and phone services to the islands of the Furneaux Group. As a result Flinders Island, Cape Barren Island and the surrounding waters will have increased mobile coverage and fast internet access.

Poor telecommunications has long been identified as a problem for the islands. A funding commitment by the liberal party in 2014 enabled the initial feasibility study and assisted Council to make a grant application. After failing with the first application, Council persisted with a grant application this year for Building Better Regions Funding. Mayor Carol Cox was both elated and relieved at the success of the application. "This once in a lifetime project will enable our small but dynamic population to take advantage of previously unusable technology."

"Mobile phone coverage will extend to Palana and Killiecrankie; our school will be able to effectively deliver a range of online educational programs; our medical service will be able to offer effective remote consults; our businesses will be able to transfer large blocks of data; our residents will be able to "skype" off-island family and friends; Wi-Fi hotspots for visitors that unavailable using our current infrastructure, will become feasible; emergency services will be able to communicate more easily in times of emergency. The improvements to our lifestyle will be endless and will bring our remote island communities that much closer to and in line with the rest of the world."

We thank the Federal Liberal Government for their commitment to our Municipality through this grant. We thank both Telstra and the State Government for their support in developing the application. Council is overjoyed that this long awaited project is becoming a reality.

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