



Community Business Connect

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MEDIA RELEASE

COMMUNITY BUSINESS CONNECT COMMENCE PROJECT ROLL OUT RURAL CONNECTIVITY FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Community Business Connect, part of the AgBiz Assist group, was awarded \$2.3mil grant funding from the Australian Government for the Rural Connectivity for Recovery and Resilience Project.

Community Business Connect (CBC), a hands-on social enterprise, was founded by well know community agency AgBiz Assist and offers a range of IT and connectivity products and services to residential and commercial users across Regional Victoria and New South Wales.

Following the 2019/2020 Black Summer Bushfires, CBC identified an urgent need to improve mobile signal quality in the bushfire-affected areas of Towong and Alpine Shires, where blackspot prevention programs are unlikely to assist in the near future.

Faced with the challenge of solving the unique issues experienced by those in rural communities and with post-disaster community recovery in mind, the Rural Connectivity for Recovery and Resilience Project (RCRR) was developed.

This funding from the Australian Government will enable the distribution and installation of no-cost mobile Signal Boosters to residences in low coverage areas identified within the Alpine and Towong Shires.

Community Business Connect will visit these areas and offer, in addition to the Mobile Signal Boosters, one-on-one education, support and communication analysis for residents of impacted communities.

CBC Digital Business and Technology Manager Dan Fewster explains, 'The RCRR project will help to address the availability of a usable mobile signal in bushfire-affected communities. This project will endeavour to bridge the gap in mobile connectivity in some of our region's most affected rural communities. Despite having been unsuccessful to date, Community Business Connect will continue in their efforts to secure additional funding for the same or similar program within the Indigo Shire.'

More information about this exciting project is available at www.cbconnect.com.au/rcrr or by contacting 1300 844 420 or via email at enquiries@cbconnect.com.au.

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