

BROADBAND UPDATE – MAY 2005

Connect South West is working to assist communities get access to broadband. Through our Broadband Broker program, we have been actively working to build demand for broadband through a range of local initiatives and community support. We have set up a register of demand and will be working to match up broadband demand with companies that can deliver new services.

The project is funded by the Department of Communications, IT and the Arts.

ADSL BROADBAND

Since the start of the project Connect South West has assisted many communities reach the demand target set by Telstra for ADSL. The following are now up and running:

- Harvey
- Augusta
- Donnybrook
- Walpole
- Boyup Brook
- Yallingup
- Pemberton
- Kingston

With ADSL to be available shortly in the communities of;

- Cowaramup
- Capel

Hopefully, more communities will reach the threshold soon. So keep those registrations rolling in!

RIMS

RIMs are mini telephone exchanges which are spread throughout the South West and which block access to ADSL broadband.

We have been working with groups of residents to encourage Telstra to upgrade these so that people can access ADSL. All we need is about 30 registrations of interest from people who want ADSL (and who are serviced by the same RIM) to get the RIM into the upgrade schedule.

We have been successful in Australind and Country Road Estate Busselton in getting RIMs either upgraded or at least on the schedule for upgrade.

WIRELESS BROADBAND

Bunbury

Perth-based company E-Wire have now completed their trial of wireless broadband in Bunbury. The trial was a success and they will be making the service available to the public soon.

The intent is to offer wireless broadband with speeds/prices slightly better than equivalent ADSL services. The area of coverage takes in selected areas of central Bunbury, East Bunbury, Eaton and Australind.

People who have registered with us in these areas will receive more information from us soon.

Molloy Island

Connect South West have been working with Perth based company, Ocean Broadband, to deliver wireless broadband services to the residents of Molloy Island, near Augusta. Ocean Broadband is currently installing equipment which will be used to undertake a trial for residents. Initial testing appears very positive.

Yarloop/Waroona/Harvey area

We have developed a relationship with Alcoa to examine the potential of using Alcoa infrastructure to deliver wireless broadband in the Yarloop area. For Alcoa to be involved there needs to be strong demand from residents for broadband. Coverage at this stage is unknown and depends on the sort of technology used, but ideally, coverage from Waroona to north of Harvey may be possible. Stay tuned.....

SATELLITE BROADBAND

For those in sparsely populated areas of the region, there is the option of HiBIS subsidised satellite broadband. We will contact those who have registered with us shortly if this will be your best broadband option.