



Hon. Robert Swarten MP
Member for Rockhampton



Minister for Public Works,
Housing and Racing

Media Release

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VILLAGE RESIDENTS ENJOY SMART STATE BENEFITS

Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing, Robert Swarten, today announced a ground-breaking telecommunications initiative for residents of the Kelvin Grove Urban Village that includes free phone calls to others in the Village.

Mr Swarten told Queensland Parliament the Department of Housing had engaged specialised communications firm Pivit Pty Ltd, based at Underwood, to supply and manage a “triple-play” fibre network within the Village providing voice, broadband internet and TV — both free-to-air digital and free-to-air satellite services.

“The services will be delivered by Pivit through Kelvin Grove Village Connections — a business registered by the Department of Housing,” Mr Swarten said.

“It means all residents and businesses at the Village can choose to receive their telecommunications services through Kelvin Grove Village Connections rather than other providers such as Optus or Telstra.

“It also means if you choose to have your telephone services from Kelvin Grove Village Connections, then calls to other Village Connections subscribers will be free of charge.

“The option of using Kelvin Grove Village Connections will be available to the first residents who move into the Village early this year.”

Mr Swarten said all lots and buildings at the Urban Village would be connected by optic fibre, and a wireless coverage of the area would allow locals not wired into the system to access some services too.

“This initiative — like the Urban Village development itself — is yet another concrete example of the Queensland Government’s Smart State strategy,” he said.

Mr Schwarten said Pivit had won the two contracts involved in providing network services to the Urban Village — an \$895,000 contract for network installation and another giving them supply and management rights for a five-year period with a further five-year option.

Pivit would maintain the network within the Village and manage customer service including helpdesk services and billings.

Pivit Managing Director, Peter Thompson, said he was looking forward to being involved with such an innovative and futuristic concept as the Kelvin Grove Urban Village.

“Pivit is a Queensland-owned and operated company and we are excited to be part of this new inner-city community developing at Kelvin Grove,” he said.

“The technology to be deployed at Kelvin Grove through Village Connections will deliver services equal to those supplied by Pivit at Sanctuary Cove and Coomera Waters.”

Pivit brings extensive expertise to the Kelvin Grove Urban Village, and is already the preferred supplier to the Brisbane Airport Corporation, providing it with ICT and telecommunications, through FiBand fibre optic cable and wireless technology, that will take it well into the future.

“We have also recently been awarded another new project, the Laidley District Wireless System,” Mr Thompson said.

Mr Schwarten said the Kelvin Grove Urban Village recently marked its fifth anniversary and was well on the way to becoming an international showcase of “brownfields” revitalisation.

“The \$6 million purchase by the State Government in 2000 of the 7ha former Gona Barracks site was the lynchpin in the Department of Housing’s plan to develop the Urban Village as a project showcasing the best urban development ideas of the public and private sectors,” he said.

“Five years later the barracks site and surrounding land holdings of the Government and project partner QUT have been dramatically transformed.

He said projects that have already begun or are planned at the Village include:

- Indigo's \$120 million Village Centre — 213 units plus retail outlets and eateries,
- Campus Living's \$22 million 108-unit project to house 370 students,
- four projects by the not-for-profit Brisbane Housing Company — a joint venture by the Queensland Government and the Brisbane City Council — providing more than 130 units of affordable accommodation,
- the Pask Group's 48-unit project worth \$20 million,
- the \$23 million Village Edge development by the Badcock Wright joint venture — seven three-storey townhouses and 27 two and three-bedroom apartments, and
- SunnyCove's 125-unit \$22 million seniors' accommodation project.

The Kelvin Grove Urban Village is a joint initiative by the Department of Housing and the Queensland University of Technology to create a dynamic mixed-use development on 16 hectares of land at Kelvin Grove, just two kilometres from Brisbane's Central Business District.

This \$800 million project will consist of a diverse mix of housing options, and educational, health, retail, recreational, community and business opportunities, blended into an exciting new precinct.

The multi award-winning Village is showing the way for future urban development, with a focus on sustainability, physical and social diversity and excellence in design.

Further information: 32387 1832