

Bendigo Community Telco
Cnr Williamson & McLaren Sts
Bendigo VIC 3550
PO Box 1062
Bendigo VIC 3552

Phone (03) 5454 5000
Fax (03) 5454 5001
Web bendigo.communitytelco.com.au



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Infrastructure investment bears fruit for local Telco

Bendigo Community Telco Chairman Rob Hunt, today announced another positive half year result for the local Telco. Bendigo Community Telco has continued to make significant investments over the past few years, and attribute the solid increase in net profit to this investment program and the continued commitment of its local customer base.

Mr Hunt also commented, "We are still committed to our initial goals of providing a genuine alternative telecommunications option in regional Victoria, and improving local prosperity through capital retention and job opportunities remain a priority. It's heartening to know our customers are continuing that journey with us, as it is our customers who are helping us to improve the effectiveness of the local economy by retaining capital, expanding our local competencies and ensuring we continue to have a competitive marketplace. We are able to directly influence the priorities for local infrastructure investment in telecommunications. Such investment is so important to our local businesses, but vital to those business competing on the national stage."

The company reported an interim net profit after tax of \$432,308 which reflects another strong result for the Telco in an industry renowned for its competitive nature. Mr Lazenby noted, "While we have experienced some aggressive competition and repricing in the local telco market our loyal customers have continued to expand their business with us."

Mr Hunt continued, "The directors of Bendigo Community Telco are pleased to announce its intention to pay a fully franked dividend of 5 cents per share." The consistent and strong fully franked returns demonstrate an excellent return on the local capital raised to form the business and undertake this initiative some 11 years ago.

Bendigo community Telco CEO Mr Phil Lazenby said, "The improvement can primarily be attributed to solid revenues generated from important investments in infrastructure our company has made in recent years."

The first half of the financial year saw Bendigo Community Telco expand the wholesale arm of its business along with an increased focus on Managed Services controlled in its Network Operations Centre (NOC). Mr Lazenby noted, "The wholesale side of our business and the capabilities enabled by our NOC are incredibly important facets of our business, which we are confident will afford us future growth."

The coming months will also see Bendigo Community Telco formalise its Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) product offering. "There are some truly exciting product developments coming up for our customers, including Virtual Servers," said Mr Lazenby, "While our staff will continue their focus on our unique 8 Star Customer Service Guarantee."



Mr Hunt said, "The company continues to be optimistic about the future, and remains committed to contributing to our region's ongoing success".

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For further information contact:

Phil Lazenby

CEO

5454 5036

0400 545 000

Phil.Lazenby@bendigotelco.com.au

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