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Optus to support Townsville City Council transformation

Optus Business has announced a new five-year Managed Services contract to boost the Council's communication and information technology capabilities.

The deal, worth approximately \$20 million, will enable vast improvements to the way council does business as well as provide significant digital service channels for the community.

John Paitaridis, Managing Director, Optus Business said, "Optus is highly committed to creating a step change for Townsville City Council. Through significant infrastructure investment we will support Council operations with greater real time flexibility, mobility and resilience enabled through Optus' next generation of mobile, cloud, security and managed services."

"Smart Cities are the cities of the future. We look forward to working strategically with Townsville City Council to design and integrate connectivity, data and analytics, sensor networks and smart phone applications to transform Townsville."

Townsville Mayor, Jenny Hill, said the partnership was an important step in ensuring council was at the forefront of the push to use technology to provide a more efficient, cost-effective service to the community.

"The scope of the contract includes basics such as telecommunication services and software deployment for our staff but it also includes things like improved connectivity to sites including our water and wastewater treatment facilities so that these can be better managed remotely, particularly in times of extreme weather events" Cr Hill said.

"We know that ratepayers expect more and better access to Council using mobile and web services. This partnership will provide us with the services needed to take full advantage of mobile solutions and cloud systems, while offering better digital services to residents."

The Optus partnership will also deliver improvements in digital security and reliability to access the internet.

"The implementation of Smart Cities is a key development focus for Council. We are confident that Optus and the partners that they will bring to Townsville will allow us to take advantage of world-leading practice and showcase the innovative north."

"Through this partnership, we look forward to having Optus grow its footprint in the local community and provide new and exciting opportunities for local business," Cr Hill said.

The news of the Council partnership follows last week's announcement that Optus is planning to spend an additional \$5 million to further improve mobile phone coverage across the Townsville region over the next two years and a further \$6 million to improve services along the Flinders Highway.

Townsville City Council CEO, Adele Young, said the partnership would allow council to improve internal efficiencies and effectiveness through cheaper and easier communication systems.

"Our decision to partner with Optus aligns with the direction set out through the recent Nous Report to simplify operations and provide a higher performing and more productive service for our community," Ms Young said.

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