

**news release**

**24 March 2009**



## **Vodafone prepares to switch on national 3G network**

Vodafone Australia has announced it is in the final stages of testing and tuning its high speed 3G network in major regional centres, which will go live during the first week in May 2009.

The upgrade expands 3G services to Vodafone customers in areas including Albury-Wodonga, Ballarat, Ballina, Bunbury, Byron Bay, Cairns, Darwin, Hobart, Kiama, Lismore, Mackay, Newcastle, Toowoomba, Townsville, Wollongong, Bowral, Nowra and Wagga Wagga.

Customers in all other existing Vodafone 2G coverage areas throughout Australia are planned to experience Vodafone 3G services by 31 August 2009.

Andy Reeves, Chief Technology Officer at Vodafone Australia: "Vodafone's national network upgrade will generate greater competition in the telecommunication market and provide greater choice for more Australian customers.

"It's great news for Vodafone customers, and we will continue to invest in the network to provide high quality service when and where it's needed most.

"It's always a race against time to bring major upgrades to market as soon as possible, but it's even more important to get it right first time and minimise disruptions to normal services," said Reeves. "We've managed the project in a pragmatic way to ensure quality and continuity of coverage for our customers throughout the upgrade project."

Vodafone confirmed that, following the upgrade in May, its 3G coverage will reach 80 per cent of the Australian population. When the second stage of the upgrade is completed, Vodafone 3G coverage will reach over 94 per cent of the Australian population.

**ends**

**About Vodafone**

Vodafone is the world's leading international mobile communications group with over 289 million proportionate customers as of 31 December 2008. Vodafone currently has equity interests in 25 countries across five continents and a further 42 partner networks worldwide.

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