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BIRRR MEDIA RELEASE  
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## HIGH SPEED UNMETERED NBN SKY MUSTER TRIAL TO BRING EQUITY TO BUSH INTERNET

### ***Sub: BIRRR positive about new nbn Sky Muster plans***

UNLIMITED DATA and higher speeds may soon be an option for nbn Sky Muster Plus users, following the news nbn will begin trials of a new satellite offering in March.

According to the nbn announcement the trial plus plan will be fully unmetered and reach speeds of up to 100mbps download and 20mbps upload, almost double current speeds of nbn satellite Plus plans.

Communications advocacy group Better Internet for Rural, Regional and Remote Australia (BIRRR) see the move as a positive step toward internet equity, regardless of where you live.

Coonamble farmer and BIRRR volunteer admin Sharon Single is a current user of Sky Muster Plus and said she was excited to see the trial announcement.

“BIRRR has been advocating for enhanced Sky Muster offerings, not only to meet consumer needs now, but into the future and we are pleased nbn are continuing to implement upgrades,” she said.

“The move to fully un-metering Sky Muster Plus plans will be broadly welcomed by rural, regional and remote consumers, particularly those who are heavy data users.

“Faster speed tier options will be appealing for those who require speeds above the current 50mbps download.”

Ms Single said the trial aligned with recommendations made by the 2021 Regional Telecommunications Independent Review Committee and advocated by BIRRR.

“Our members want equitable access to communications technologies, internet access underpins a broad range of services, including health and education as well as business and social services,” she said.

“BIRRR understands the trial is due to begin in March and will involve voluntary participants chosen by the retail service providers in limited locations.

“It will initially run for 3 months then there are plans to offer national coverage later in the year.

“We have been told the trial is staged to ensure it will not impact existing Sky Muster users.”

Ms Single said as far as she was aware commercial pricing was yet to be set, however, BIRRR would continue to advocate to both nbn and retail service providers for plans that were affordable for rural, regional and remote consumers.

“Sky Muster underpins rural and remote connectivity,” she said.

“It is available to any dwelling that cannot be connected through nbn fixed wireless or nbn fixed line services.

“The nbn Sky Muster satellite equipment is supplied and installed free of charge and plans are available from a range of providers, starting at about \$40 a month for standard plans.”

Ms Single said not all internet providers offered nbn Sky Muster or nbn Sky Muster Plus plans, and that consumers should check in with the Regional Tech Hub for more information on how to get and stay connected.

“Consumers should regularly conduct an internet health check to see if they are on the right plan and with the right provider for their requirements,” she said.

***User quotes if needed from current nbn Sky Muster users on existing plus plans.***

**Max, Tasmania:** “We have been on Sky Muster via Skymesh Plus for I think all of 2022 we don’t have to worry about exceeding data limits anymore. It is affordable and reliable and meets our needs”.

**Juliet, QLD:** “ nbn Sky muster plus has been great for us with three kids in the distance education school room, we find it very reliable. Whilst we never previously used streaming we are starting to watch a bit now since the changes with un-metering came in. We don't have to monitor our data usage like we used to as all the things we need to do school, run a business, and use social media are unlimited.

**Carla, NSW:** “We have been on nbn Sky Muster Plus since it was released last year. We find it very reliable and run an agricultural business, communicate with our kids at boarding school, stream and participate in Zoom teleconferences among other things with no issues. Just had 3 kids home for 7 weeks streaming TV shows on up to 3 TV’s/devices at a time and I could still do my computer work and we didn’t run out of data !”



*BIRRR stock image attached.*

*Suggested Caption: nbn Satellite "Sky Muster" installation*

*Contact BIRRR for other images which contain images of users*

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