

10 November 2006

The Manager

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**ELECTRONIC LODGEMENT** 

Dear Sir or Madam

BigPond marks  $\mathbf{10}^{\mathrm{th}}$  Anniversary with launch of national High Speed Broadband

Attached is a copy of an announcement for release to the market.

Yours sincerely

**Douglas Gration** Company Secretary

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## Media Release



10 November 2006 214/2006

# BigPond marks 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with launch of national High Speed Broadband

Telstra today delivered another important instalment in its "Plan for Australia" as BigPond unveiled its upgraded national high-speed broadband network, offering fixed-line ADSL speeds amongst the fastest in the world.

The unveiling also marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of BigPond in November 1996.

BigPond's Group Managing Director, Mr Justin Milne, said BigPond High Speed Broadband would deliver network speeds of either up to eight megabits per second (Mbps) or up to 20Mbps from exchanges offering ADSL2+ services. Because of regulatory constraints, the up to 20Mbps service would be limited to exchanges where competitors are also offering those higher speeds.

"Telstra's commitment to delivering national high-speed broadband services is demonstrated by how we are investing our money. Because we've invested shareholder funds heavily in building out our high-speed network, we are now able to offer BigPond customers, across Australia, higher speed ADSL broadband services" Mr Milne said.

"Additionally, we have introduced new 1.5Mbps BigPond plans, which are up to \$30 per month cheaper. A customer on a 512kbps BigPond plan can elect to switch to an equivalent 1.5Mbps BigPond plan at no extra charge and benefit from a speed increase of around 300 per cent.

"This is the biggest news in Australian fixed-line broadband in years and complements the launch of the Telstra's Next G<sup>TM</sup> network, Australia's fastest and largest mobile wireless broadband network one month ago.

"BigPond's new high-speed plans are not just for a few prime inner city exchanges. We've upgraded our ADSL-enabled exchanges nationally, to offer more speed in more places, so that customers in cities, regional centres and country towns can reap the productivity, entertainment, education, and health care benefits of high-speed broadband," Mr Milne said.

"It means faster downloads, better quality video streaming, lightning-quick web surfing and the ability to send and receive large files quickly and conveniently," he said. The new national high-speed broadband network includes more than 2,400 ADSL-enabled exchanges that reach around 91 per cent percent of the population.

"BigPond Movie Downloads, BigPond TV On Demand and BigPond Games Shop downloads will take only minutes. For example, downloading *Casablanca*, a one gigabyte download which would take more than nine hours at 256kbps, can now be fully downloaded in as little as seven and a half minutes with our high-speed plans.

"We'll be able to offer high quality video from our sports sites, and students will be able to explore and learn from the encyclopaedic educational resources of the internet," Mr Milne said.

Telstra's national media inquiry line is 1300 769 780 and the Telstra Media Centre is located at: <a href="https://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media">www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/media</a>

### Media Release



New customers with two eligible Telstra services, who sign up online, can get one of our new BigPond Broadband high-speed ADSL plans from as little as \$29.97 per month for the first 12 months on a two year contract.

For customers with a Telstra full service phone, pricing for the new ADSL high-speed services starts at \$59.95 with a 600MB download limit, a 12GB shaped plan for \$89.95 and 25GB and 60GB plans for heavy users priced at \$119.95 and \$149.95 respectively.

Entry level 256kbps plan prices remain unchanged, starting at \$29.95 per month.

Customers can check what speed may be available from their local exchange by entering their address at <a href="https://www.bigpond.com/internet-plans/broadband/availability/default.asp">https://www.bigpond.com/internet-plans/broadband/availability/default.asp</a>. Speeds may vary due to factors including network configuration, line quality & length, exchange type, customer premises interference, internet traffic and equipment.

Existing BigPond members on 512 kbps and 1.5Mbps plans can take advantage of the new speeds and pricing by visiting "My BigPond" at <a href="https://www.bigpond.com">www.bigpond.com</a> and, in some cases, they may also need to upgrade their existing modem.

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#### **BigPond ADSL Pricing effective 10 November 2006**

Access speed / MB Allowance	Preselect Price
256kbps / 200MB	\$29.95
256pbps / BigPond Liberty <sup>1</sup>	\$59.95
1500 kbps / 400MB	\$39.95
1500 kbps / BigPond Liberty <sup>1</sup>	\$69.95
1500 kbps / 25GB	\$99.95
High speed <sup>2</sup> / 600MB	\$59.95
High speed <sup>2</sup> /BigPond Liberty <sup>1</sup>	\$89.95
High speed <sup>2</sup> / 25GB	\$119.95
High speed <sup>2</sup> / 60GB	\$149.95

- 1. Shaped download limit of 12GB
- 2. Up to 8Mbps for ADSL1 and up to 20Mbps for ADSL2+  $\,$

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