

Westfield Knox - Expansion Project



DAS and repeater solution designed to ensure a seamless customer experience at iconic Melbourne shopping centre.

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The project

The Westfield Knox redevelopment is a multi-phase major shopping centre project in Melbourne's south. Westfield Knox has been a Melbourne shopping staple for decades, and this upgrade to the precinct offered the opportunity to align in-building communications with its high-quality community and retail offerings.

The redevelopment project, with a total project budget of \$355 million, has included a new gourmet marketplace, swim school, community space and public library within the shopping centre. To further elevate the customers' experience when visiting the centre, MCS has partnered with Scentregroup and lead carrier Optus to ensure connectivity throughout the centre.

The challenge

As this was a live construction site and functional premier shopping centre, the timing of completing works needed to adhere to a set schedule, including some nightworks. The complex site also required a unique combination of a DAS and repeater solution that was specifically tailored to the site and requirements.

As the redevelopment happened in phases and did not touch all areas of the centre, not all areas were addressed with the same DAS implementation at the same time.

The solution

A high-power active DAS was implemented to best suit the size and needs of the shopping precinct. A total of 130 antennas were installed in stages 1 and 2 of the Westfield Knox project, with stage 3 ongoing in late 2023.

As an additional aspect of this project, we designed and deployed a temporary repeater system to provide coverage before the DAS installation could be completed. The temporary repeaters were removed when they were no longer required as part of the full scope of works.

A number of repeaters were also deployed as permeant in-fill solutions to some key older areas of the centre where coverage for particular carriers was poor.

The results

By providing a well-designed solution that incorporated the temporary and permanent repeaters alongside the DAS, we catered to the needs of the client and enabled connection throughout the centre during the installation and beyond. The redevelopment is ongoing, however each of the completed phases have been a great success for Westfield, Scentregroup and Optus. The repeater solution proved to be a valuable addition to the project, allowing strong connection before the DAS installation could be completed.



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Image via: Shopping Centre News.