



PANDA IT

IT FOR MINESITES

Part of the Unicorn IT Group

REMOTE CONNECTIVITY / Mining & Resources

Six-hop solar microwave network connects a remote mine at 100 Mbps

Before Starlink existed, a remote Western Australian mine site was stuck on a 2 Mbps/2 Mbps satellite link. Panda IT designed and built a six-hop solar-powered microwave network to a Tom Price business with a 100 Mbps fibre connection, connecting the mine to its head office at real broadband speeds. A major telco quoted \$4.6 million to run fibre; the microwave solution was built for \$69,000, excluding the existing Tom Price connection supplied by the mining company.

KEY RESULTS

100 Mbps

connection to head office

\$69,000

network build cost

6 hops

solar-powered relay sites

Cyclone rated

towers, mounts and enclosures

THE CHALLENGE

- The remote mine relied on a 2 Mbps/2 Mbps satellite link with high latency and poor reliability.
- A major telco quoted \$4.6 million for a dedicated fibre run.
- No commercial power was available at the relay sites across the six-hop path.
- Extreme heat, dust and cyclone exposure shaped the Pilbara installation.

THE SOLUTION & RESULTS

- Surveyed the terrain and designed a six-hop microwave path to existing fibre in Tom Price.
- Built solar-powered relay sites with cyclone-rated towers, mounts and enclosures.
- Delivered a 100 Mbps connection to head office.
- Completed the network build for \$69,000, excluding the existing Tom Price connection.

"For the first time we could run our mine systems, video calls and file transfers like a real office. The satellite days felt like a different century."

Mine operations manager, Western Australia

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