

**Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the
Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2010**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Question No: 1

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: FREE TV AUSTRALIA MODEL FOR RESOLVING COPYRIGHT DISPUTES

Senator McEwen asked:

Would the Department please review Free TV's evidence regarding its preferred model for resolving copyright disputes, and provide its response.

Answer:

The Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2010 (the Bill) places obligations on a satellite service licensee to broadcast content supplied by remote, regional and metropolitan commercial television broadcasters, and on remote, regional and metropolitan broadcasters to supply content to a satellite service licensee.

Commercial negotiation is the most appropriate and efficient means of securing equitable remuneration for the supply of program content. The Department expects that broadcasters will come to commercial agreement regarding the supply of content to a satellite service licensee. However, in circumstances where a satellite service licensee and a terrestrial commercial television broadcaster cannot come to a commercial agreement for the supply of content, it is necessary to provide a mechanism to ensure equitable remuneration for both the broadcast rights and the underlying rights in works, cinematograph films and sound recording embedded in the broadcast. The Bill does this through the proposed statutory scheme.

The proposed statutory licensing scheme provides that if a satellite service licensee re-broadcasts material from a remote, regional or metropolitan broadcaster, copyright in the original broadcast will not be infringed if there is a commercial agreement between the satellite service licensee and the originating broadcaster, or if there is no agreement, where the Copyright Tribunal has determined the amount of equitable remuneration payable by the satellite service licensee to the original broadcaster.

In relation to the underlying rights to the program material broadcast, the proposed scheme provides that copyright in the works, cinematograph films and sound recordings embedded in a broadcast is not infringed where the satellite service licensee has come to an agreement with the declared collecting society, or if there is no agreement, where the Copyright Tribunal has determined the amount of equitable remuneration payable by the satellite service licensee.

In its submission to the Committee, Free TV has expressed several concerns regarding the statutory licensing scheme proposed in the Bill. Free TV argues that the statutory licensing scheme is overly complex; that it will not give appropriate remuneration to broadcasters for the value of the copyright in their broadcasts; and that it effectively characterises the satellite service as a re-transmission service. Free TV recommends that the Bill provide for referral of the issue to an independent third party who can determine fair value with reference to comparable affiliation deals and other relevant information.

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The Department considers that the Copyright Tribunal, with its expertise and experience in determining the value of the use of copyright material, is the most appropriate independent body to adjudicate disputes between broadcasters where a commercial agreement cannot be reached. The Attorney-General's Department has also advised the Department that it is not aware of any precedent in Australian copyright regulation for appointing an independent arbitrator that is not the Copyright Tribunal.

When previously determining equitable remuneration for the use of copyright material, the Tribunal has, as set out in the Tribunal's decision on *Audio-Visual Copyright Society Ltd v Foxtel Management Pty Ltd (No 4)* [2006] ACopyT 2 (3 May 2006), taken into account:

- the 'market rate', that is, the rate actually being charged for the same licence in the same market in similar circumstances;
- 'comparable bargains', that is, bargains not in the same market but sufficiently similar to the notional bargain next mentioned to provide guidance to the Tribunal;
- 'notional bargain rate', that is, the rate on which the Tribunal considers the parties would agree in a hypothetical negotiation;
- the rate which the Tribunal determines as a result of what, for want of a better term, has been called 'judicial estimation'.

The same decision also sets out a number of factors which the Copyright Law Review Committee identifies as being taken into account by the Tribunal in making a 'judicial estimation', including:

- previous agreements between parties;
- negotiations between the parties preceding the application to the Tribunal;
- comparison of determinations under similar legislative regimes in other jurisdictions;
- comparison between royalties set by other licensors/collecting societies;
- the capacity of the licensee to pay;
- the value to the licensee of the use of the copyright material;
- the general public interest and the interests of consumers; and
- the administrative costs of a licensing body.

The scheme in the proposed Part VD of the *Copyright Act 1968* is framed specifically for the circumstances of the new satellite service and makes no reference to the re-transmission of broadcasts. Part VD explicitly characterises a satellite service as a re-broadcast service, not a re-transmission service, and the Department would expect the Copyright Tribunal to make its determinations in this context. Further, item 140 in the Bill excludes re-transmissions made by a satellite service from the operation of the re-transmission scheme in Part VC of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

In light of the above, the Department considers that the Copyright Tribunal is best placed to determine fair value for the use of copyright material with reference to comparable affiliation deals and other relevant information.

The Department also notes that parties are not obliged to use the Copyright Tribunal. They are free to nominate and appoint their own independent commercial arbiter if they wish to do so.

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Also, if one of the parties does put a dispute to the Copyright Tribunal, the Copyright Tribunal can provide other options to a full-scale legal hearing and decision. The *Copyright Act 1968* already provides for alternative dispute resolution as part of the Copyright Tribunal's procedures.

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Question No: 2

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: FREE TV AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION: MATERIAL OF LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

Senator Anne McEwen asked:

In its submission, Free TV expressed concern that item 38 of the Bill requiring broadcasters to provide material of local significance 'does not appear to capture the parameters of the proposed satellite news service' (Submission 7, p. 4). Would the Department please provide a response to Free TV's concerns.

Answer:

Free TV Australia has raised concerns that item 38 in the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2010 (the Bill) requires regional commercial broadcasters to supply a wider range of local material to the satellite service licensee other than the local news bulletins which the satellite news service is intended to provide.

Free TV Australia has suggested amendments to the Bill so that only 'long form' of local news produced and broadcast by regional commercial broadcasters should be required to be provided to satellite service licensees or multiple short form local news programs if the long form is not available. These would not include any other material of local significance, local content or local information that is not a news program that is produced and broadcast by regional commercial broadcasters.

The Government is consulting with broadcasters on this matter and is considering the amendments suggested by Free TV Australia.

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Question No: 2

Hansard Ref: ECA 61

Topic: STATUTORY LICENSING SCHEME - BACKDATING OF REMUNERATION NOTICES

Senator McEwen asked:

CHAIR—Before I go to other senators, also raised earlier today was the issue of backdating of remuneration notices. Were you paying attention when that evidence was given by, I think, Screenrights?

Dr Pelling—Was that in relation to the copyright provisions?

CHAIR—Yes.

Dr Pelling—I was not aware of the particular issue. I think we would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Screenrights is concerned that the ability to backdate a remuneration notice under paragraph 135ZZZJ(3)(b) of the proposed amendments to the *Copyright Act 1968* creates the possibility of misuse by the satellite service licensee to leverage commercial negotiations.

The intention of the proposed Part VD of the Copyright Act is to address copyright issues that would arise where a satellite service licensee cannot come to a commercial agreement with a terrestrial commercial television broadcasting licensee for the supply of programs for broadcast on the satellite service. This is so that a satellite service licensee can meet its obligations under proposed Clauses 7B to 7D of Schedule 2 to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* to provide a service that offers an equivalent range of commercial digital television channels enjoyed in metropolitan markets as well as news and information sourced from the regional commercial television broadcasters operating in the relevant satellite licence area without the potential for copyright infringement

The provisions relating to re-broadcast by satellite service licensees deal with two types of copyright, copyright in the underlying works in the broadcast and copyright in the broadcast itself.

In relation to the copyright in the broadcast signal, the satellite service licensee may give a binding undertaking to the copyright owner in the absence of either a commercial agreement between the two parties, or a Copyright Tribunal determination of the amount payable (see subparagraph 135ZZZI(2)(d)(iii)). This undertaking is essentially an undertaking to pay the amount once it has been determined.

In relation to the copyright in the underlying works, remuneration to the rights holder is dealt with through a remuneration notice provided to a copyright collecting society. Proposed section 135ZZZJ of the Copyright Act deals with remuneration notices made under this arrangement. Where a remuneration notice is yet to be given to the collecting society by the satellite service

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licensee, proposed paragraph 135ZZZJ(3)(b) allows a satellite service licensee to comply with its obligations to provide commercial television services without infringing copyright in a work, sound recording or cinematograph film included in a broadcast.

Once the satellite service licensee has given a remuneration notice to the collecting society, and an amount of equitable remuneration is subsequently determined, either by agreement between the satellite service licensee and the collecting society, or by the Copyright Tribunal (as provided under proposed section 135ZZZK), the satellite service licensee would be required to pay the agreed or determined amount of equitable remuneration in relation to the period that the remuneration notice is in force, including for the period before the remuneration notice was given. The satellite service licensee would be liable for copyright infringement for any period of use not included in the remuneration notice.

The backdating provision in paragraph 135ZZZJ(3)(b) is in the same form as subsection 135ZZL(3) in the statutory licensing scheme for the re-transmission of broadcasts under Part VC of the Copyright Act. The Department is unaware of any agreements made pursuant to subsection 135ZZL(3) of the Copyright Act that have caused detriment to the interests of copyright holders.

Under the Copyright Act, a party cannot be forced to agree to a negotiated agreement if that party would prefer to seek a determination of the Copyright Tribunal.

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Question No: [p 59 and p 69]

Hansard Ref: on Notice

Topic: Candidate list and Letters

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—When were they (letters) sent?

AND

Senator FISHER—I presume it is a standard letter. Can the committee be provided with a copy of the minister's letter, please?

Answer:

Minister's letter to self-help licensees dated 30 March 2010

The Minister has written to each licensee of existing self-help facilities with the exception of some sites where the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) is the only self help service (see below). The list of licensees and their addresses was provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) from their licensee database. All letters were finalised by the 30 March 2010 and most were sent between the 30 March 2010 and 1 April 2010.

The letters were tailored to fit the circumstances of each of the licensees, and informed them whether any of their sites were on the candidate list of sites for conversion provided to the Government by broadcasters, and/or (as relevant) which of their sites were not on the candidate conversion list.

Categories of letters

A number of different categories of letters were produced which varied depending on the status of the self-help facilities operated by the licensee in relation to the candidate list, and the location of the sites (remote or non-remote licence areas of Australia). For a small number of licensees an individual letter was prepared.

The following categories of letters were created:

- a standard candidate letter for all licensees on the candidate list – Attachment A
- a standard non-candidate letter for all licensees not on the candidate list – Attachment B
- a standard mixed letter for licensees with at least one site on the candidate list and other sites operated by the licensee not on the candidate list – Attachment C
- a standard letter for licensees operating sites in a remote licence area – Attachment D

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- five individual letters – Attachment E.

SBS-only sites

A total of 36 licensees are yet to receive a letter. These are licensees operating sites that only transmit SBS services on a self-help basis, with all other services from the site being provided by broadcasters themselves. Commercial broadcasters are not proposing to upgrade the SBS services at these sites to digital. The Government is currently considering options for SBS-only sites and will be writing to licensees of these sites when a decision has been made about them.

These licensees are:

Brewarrina Shire Council
Cook Shire Council
District Council of Coober Pedy
Flinders Ranges Council
Flinders Shire Council
Lightning Ridge Bowling Club
Paroo Shire Council
Rio Tinto Aluminium Limited
Robe River Iron Associates
Shire of Ashburton
Shire of Bridgetown and Greenbushes
Shire of Carnamah
Shire of Coolgardie
Shire of Derby/West Kimberley
Shire of Dundas
Shire of Halls Creek
Shire of Kojonup
Shire of Manjimup
Shire of Meekatharra
Shire of Merredin
Shire of Morawa
Shire of Mount Magnet
Shire of Mullewa
Shire of Narembeen
Shire of Roebourne
Shire of Wyndham-East Kimberley
Shire of Yilgarn
Snowy Hydro Limited
Torres Shire Council
Upper Kiewa Valley Translator Committee Inc
West Arnhem Shire Council
Winton Shire Council

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Attachment A – individual letters

Letters for

Regional Council of Goyder
Central Highlands Regional Council
Mid-Western Regional Council
Surf Coast Shire Council
Mildura Rural City Council

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30 March 2010

Regional Council of Goyder

Attn: Self-Help TV Manager

1 Market Square

BURRA SA 5417

Dear Sir/Madam

Broadcasters' offer to upgrade self-help television transmission sites from analog to digital

On 5 January 2010, I announced that under an agreement between the Government and commercial television broadcasters across Australia, broadcasters will upgrade a number of existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities to operate in digital.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

I am now writing to inform you that the self-help facilities at Eudunda has been identified by broadcasters as a candidates for upgrading from analog to digital. The final decision as to whether or not these facilities will be upgraded will depend on agreement being reached with the current transmitter licence holder about the conditions under which the upgrade will be carried out.

It is important that you understand that this is an offer by the broadcasters. While the Government has strongly encouraged broadcasters to take every possible step to ensure that the site can be converted in a timely fashion, the final decision about whether and how to convert the sites is a matter for negotiation between the current licence holder and the broadcasters.

I am informed that a representative of the broadcasters will be contacting you in the near future to formally discuss their proposals and the terms of an agreement. For further information about the broadcasters' proposals, you should contact Alan Butorac at Regional Broadcasting Australia, on 0417 929 330 or by e-mail at alan@abden.com.au .

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I also understand that the transmission facility at Burra retransmits SBS services only (the other services being provided by broadcasters). The Government is currently considering options for SBS-only retransmission sites and will be writing to licensees of these sites when a decision has been made about them.

Terms of the offer from commercial broadcasters

The free-to-air commercial broadcasters have informed me that they are prepared to offer a no-cost transmitter equipment upgrade to the self-help broadcasting facilities at Eudunda. This would cover replacement of the analog transmission equipment with digital transmission equipment at the existing self-help broadcasting site.

The digital equipment to be provided will transmit all digital services, including new digital multichannels, currently available in your licence area. Broadcasters will, as far as possible, ensure that the coverage of the digital transmitter is at least equal to the analog coverage currently provided by the existing analog facility. Broadcasters are also offering to provide maintenance of the upgraded equipment they install at their cost for an initial term of ten years. It is intended that the upgrade will take place at least six months before analog switch-off in your local area.

The offer being made by broadcasters is primarily related to the provision and maintenance of transmission equipment. Broadcasters have advised that the local community would be expected to continue to meet the costs of running the site, including:

- site-leasing costs,
- electricity,
- access charges, and
- other such costs associated with maintenance of the site infrastructure, such as air conditioning.

As part of this arrangement, continued access to the site for the broadcasters to provide equipment and maintenance would also need to be assured.

The local community will also be responsible for:

- keeping the site in appropriate physical condition,
- ensuring it continues to be suitable for a broadcasting facility, and
- undertaking any upgrades or improvements required to the transmission site infrastructure—such as the building, power, and antenna support infrastructure.

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Broadcasters will:

- retain ownership of the equipment they provide,
- reserve the option to relocate the transmission site in future (for example, for the purpose of moving to a more suitable site), and
- hold the transmitter licence to broadcast the service.

Broadcasters have also advised that any digital transmission equipment upgrade will depend on satisfactory resolution of a range of technical matters, such as the availability of an adequate digital feed signal from the main transmitter in the licence area, and the availability of suitable radio-frequency spectrum.

An important consideration for you to be aware of is that the digital transmitters will use the same television channels as the analog service. This will mean that the analog service will be swapped directly to digital at a point in time (a so-called 'hot swap'), with no simulcast period. All residents in the area would therefore need to have converted to digital before the change-over. Broadcasters have said that there will be some outages to television services at the site while the new equipment is being installed, tested and commissioned, but they will try to keep these to a minimum.

Local broadcasters are working with the Digital Switchover Taskforce and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to address technical and licensing matters.

Broadcasters will be contacting licensees to discuss these matters further, and to clarify any outstanding issues, including the need to reach agreement about a suitable date for the upgrade. Broadcasters are also likely to seek co-operation from you to provide notices to residents informing them of developments in relation to the upgrade.

New satellite service for people unable to access terrestrial services

It would be open to you to decide not to accept the broadcasters' offer. In this case you would have two options.

First, households who are currently served by an analog self help facility not being upgraded, and who are otherwise unable to receive reception of the digital television services terrestrially transmitted in their area, will be eligible to receive digital television services from the new digital television satellite service which I also announced on 5 January 2010.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news

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channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

In addition to the news services offered by the national broadcasters, the satellite service will also provide viewers in regional Australia with access to the local news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial licence areas. These services will be provided through a dedicated news channel.

To access the new satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required and characteristics of the viewer's home.

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households in regional areas that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who need to move to the satellite service because the self-help facility is not upgraded to digital. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite.

Alternatively, you may have reached a view that the local community would rather manage the conversion of the site to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters.

It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site or sites would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment

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- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services will be assisted under this program including if they are required to move to satellite. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Other matters

Eudunda is in the Adelaide switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting on 31 December 2013.

Burra is in the Spencer Gulf switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting on 15 December 2010.

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

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30 March 2010

Central Highlands Regional Council

Attn: Self-Help TV Manager

PO Box 21

EMERALD QLD 4720

Dear Sir/Madam

Broadcasters' offer to upgrade self-help television transmission sites from analog to digital

On 5 January 2010, I announced that under an agreement between the Government and commercial television broadcasters across Australia, broadcasters will upgrade a number of existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities to operate in digital.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

I am now writing to inform you that the self-help facilities at Sapphire/Rubyvale has been identified by broadcasters as a candidates for upgrading from analog to digital. The final decision as to whether or not these facilities will be upgraded will depend on agreement being reached with the current transmitter licence holder about the conditions under which the upgrade will be carried out.

It is important that you understand that this is an offer by the broadcasters. While the Government has strongly encouraged broadcasters to take every possible step to ensure that the site can be converted in a timely fashion, the final decision about whether and how to convert the sites is a matter for negotiation between the current licence holder and the broadcasters.

I understand that you also operate self-help sitess at Anakie, Springsure and Willows which are not proposed to be upgraded by the broadcasters. Options for these sitess are set out below.

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I understand that the facility you operate at Springsure provides SBS services only. The Government is currently considering options for SBS-only sites and will be writing to licensees of these sites when a decision has been made about them.

I am informed that a representative of the broadcasters will be contacting you in the near future to formally discuss their proposals and the terms of an agreement for conversion of the Sapphire/Rubyvale site.

For further information about the broadcasters' proposals, you should contact Alan Butorac at Regional Broadcasting Australia, on 0417 929 330 or by e-mail at alan@abden.com.au .

Terms of the offer from commercial broadcasters

The free-to-air commercial broadcasters have informed me that they are prepared to offer a no-cost transmitter equipment upgrade to the self-help broadcasting facilities at Sapphire/Rubyvale . This would cover replacement of the analog transmission equipment with digital transmission equipment at the existing self-help broadcasting site.

The digital equipment to be provided will transmit all digital services, including new digital multichannels, currently available in your licence area. Broadcasters will, as far as possible, ensure that the coverage of the digital transmitter is at least equal to the analog coverage currently provided by the existing analog facility. Broadcasters are also offering to provide maintenance of the upgraded equipment they install at their cost for an initial term of ten years. It is intended that the upgrade will take place at least six months before analog switch-off in your local area.

The offer being made by broadcasters is primarily related to the provision and maintenance of transmission equipment. Broadcasters have advised that the local community would be expected to continue to meet the costs of running the site, including:

- site-leasing costs,
- electricity,
- access charges, and
- other such costs associated with maintenance of the site infrastructure, such as air conditioning.

As part of this arrangement, continued access to the site for the broadcasters to provide equipment and maintenance would also need to be assured.

The local community will also be responsible for:

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- keeping the site in appropriate physical condition,
- ensuring it continues to be suitable for a broadcasting facility, and
- undertaking any upgrades or improvements required to the transmission site infrastructure—such as the building, power, and antenna support infrastructure.

Broadcasters will:

- retain ownership of the equipment they provide,
- reserve the option to relocate the transmission site in future (for example, for the purpose of moving to a more suitable site), and
- hold the transmitter licence to broadcast the service.

Broadcasters have also advised that any digital transmission equipment upgrade will depend on satisfactory resolution of a range of technical matters, such as the availability of an adequate digital feed signal from the main transmitter in the licence area, and the availability of suitable radio-frequency spectrum.

An important consideration for you to be aware of is that the digital transmitters will use the same television channels as the analog service. This will mean that the analog service will be swapped directly to digital at a point in time (a so-called 'hot swap'), with no simulcast period. All residents in the area would therefore need to have converted to digital before the change-over. Broadcasters have said that there will be some outages to television services at the site while the new equipment is being installed, tested and commissioned, but they will try to keep these to a minimum.

Local broadcasters are working with the Digital Switchover Taskforce and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to address technical and licensing matters.

Broadcasters will be contacting licensees to discuss these matters further, and to clarify any outstanding issues, including the need to reach agreement about a suitable date for the upgrade. Broadcasters are also likely to seek co-operation from you to provide notices to residents informing them of developments in relation to the upgrade.

New satellite service for people unable to access terrestrial services

It would be open to you to decide not to accept the broadcasters' offer. In this case you would have two options. These options also apply to the self-help facilities at Anakie and Willows.

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First, households who are currently served by an analog self help facility not being upgraded, and who are otherwise unable to receive reception of the digital television services terrestrially transmitted in their area, will be eligible to receive digital television services from the new digital television satellite service which I also announced on 5 January 2010.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

In addition to the news services offered by the national broadcasters, the satellite service will also provide viewers in regional Australia with access to the local news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial licence areas. These services will be provided through a dedicated news channel.

To access the new satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required and characteristics of the viewer's home.

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households in regional areas that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who need to move to the satellite service because the self-help facility is not upgraded to digital. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite.

Alternatively, you may have reached a view that the local community would rather manage the conversion of the site to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters.

It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site or sites would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Finally, broadcasters have advised me that some areas currently served by a self-help facility may be able to receive digital services from an alternative digital terrestrial transmission site operated in the local area. This possibility should be discussed directly with broadcasters in your region, or with a suitable expert. Whether or not viewers in the area served by the self-help site will need satellite will depend on whether broadcasters are able to guarantee that adequate coverage will be available from a terrestrial site. This option would also require households to re-point their antennas towards the alternative site, or in some cases to obtain new antennas.

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Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services will be assisted under this program including if they are required to move to satellite. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Other matters

Sapphire/Rubyvale and Springsure are in the Capricornia switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting in the second half of 2011. The actual date at which switchover occurs within this period will depend on factors such as local conditions and community feedback, but will be published well in advance of switchover.

Anakie and Willows are in the Remote Central & Eastern Australia switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting in the second half of 2013. The actual date at which switchover occurs within this period will depend on factors such as local conditions and community feedback, but will be published well in advance of switchover.

Viewers in remote areas will be able to access the new satellite service well in advance of switchover. In the meantime, the current analog re-transmission arrangements can continue. Further information will be provided once the details of the service availability are finalised with the remote commercial broadcasters.

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If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

30 March 2010

Mid Western Regional Council

Attn: Self-Help TV Manager

PO Box 156

MUDGEE NSW 2850

Dear Sir/Madam

Broadcasters' offer to upgrade self-help television transmission sites from analog to digital

On 5 January 2010, I announced that under an agreement between the Government and commercial television broadcasters across Australia, broadcasters will upgrade a number of existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities to operate in digital.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

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I am now writing to inform you that the self-help facilities at Mudgee Town has been identified by broadcasters as a candidates for upgrading from analog to digital. The final decision as to whether or not these facilities will be upgraded will depend on agreement being reached with the current transmitter licence holder about the conditions under which the upgrade will be carried out.

It is important that you understand that this is an offer by the broadcasters. While the Government has strongly encouraged broadcasters to take every possible step to ensure that the site can be converted in a timely fashion, the final decision about whether and how to convert the sites is a matter for negotiation between the current licence holder and the broadcasters.

I understand that you also operate a self-help sites at Kandos which is not proposed to be upgraded by the broadcasters. Options for these sites are set out below.

I also understand that you operate a self-help facility at Gulgong which provides SBS services only. The Government is currently considering options for SBS-only sites and will be writing to licensees of these sites when a decision has been made about them.

I am informed that a representative of the broadcasters will be contacting you in the near future to formally discuss their proposals and the terms of an agreement.

For further information about the broadcasters' proposals, you should contact Alan Butorac at Regional Broadcasting Australia, on 0417 929 330 or by e-mail at alan@abden.com.au .

Terms of the offer from commercial broadcasters

The free-to-air commercial broadcasters have informed me that they are prepared to offer a no-cost transmitter equipment upgrade to the self-help broadcasting facilities at Mudgee Town. This would cover replacement of the analog transmission equipment with digital transmission equipment at the existing self-help broadcasting site.

The digital equipment to be provided will transmit all digital services, including new digital multichannels, currently available in your licence area. Broadcasters will, as far as possible, ensure that the coverage of the digital transmitter is at least equal to the analog coverage currently provided by the existing analog facility. Broadcasters are also offering to provide maintenance of the upgraded equipment they install at their cost for an initial term of ten years. It is intended that the upgrade will take place at least six months before analog switch-off in your local area.

The offer being made by broadcasters is primarily related to the provision and maintenance of transmission equipment. Broadcasters have advised that the local community would be expected to continue to meet the costs of running the site, including:

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- site-leasing costs,
- electricity,
- access charges, and
- other such costs associated with maintenance of the site infrastructure, such as air conditioning.

As part of this arrangement, continued access to the site for the broadcasters to provide equipment and maintenance would also need to be assured.

The local community will also be responsible for:

- keeping the site in appropriate physical condition,
- ensuring it continues to be suitable for a broadcasting facility, and
- undertaking any upgrades or improvements required to the transmission site infrastructure—such as the building, power, and antenna support infrastructure.

Broadcasters will:

- retain ownership of the equipment they provide,
- reserve the option to relocate the transmission site in future (for example, for the purpose of moving to a more suitable site), and
- hold the transmitter licence to broadcast the service.

Broadcasters have also advised that any digital transmission equipment upgrade will depend on satisfactory resolution of a range of technical matters, such as the availability of an adequate digital feed signal from the main transmitter in the licence area, and the availability of suitable radio-frequency spectrum.

An important consideration for you to be aware of is that the digital transmitters will use the same television channels as the analog service. This will mean that the analog service will be swapped directly to digital at a point in time (a so-called 'hot swap'), with no simulcast period. All residents in the area would therefore need to have converted to digital before the change-over. Broadcasters have said that there will be some outages to television services at the site while the new equipment is being installed, tested and commissioned, but they will try to keep these to a minimum.

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Local broadcasters are working with the Digital Switchover Taskforce and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to address technical and licensing matters.

Broadcasters will be contacting licensees to discuss these matters further, and to clarify any outstanding issues, including the need to reach agreement about a suitable date for the upgrade. Broadcasters are also likely to seek co-operation from you to provide notices to residents informing them of developments in relation to the upgrade.

New satellite service for people unable to access terrestrial services

It would be open to you to decide not to accept the broadcasters' offer. In this case you would have two options. These options also apply to the Kandos self-help facility.

First, households who are currently served by an analog self-help facility not being upgraded, and who are otherwise unable to receive reception of the digital television services terrestrially transmitted in their area, will be eligible to receive digital television services from the new digital television satellite service which I also announced on 5 January 2010.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

In addition to the news services offered by the national broadcasters, the satellite service will also provide viewers in regional Australia with access to the local news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial licence areas. These services will be provided through a dedicated news channel.

To access the new satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required and characteristics of the viewer's home.

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households in regional areas that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who need to move to the satellite service because the self-help facility is not upgraded to digital. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite.

Alternatively, you may have reached a view that the local community would rather manage the conversion of the site to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters.

**Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the
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Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site or sites would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Finally, broadcasters have advised me that some areas currently served by a self-help facility may be able to receive digital services from an alternative digital terrestrial transmission site operated in the local area. This possibility should be discussed directly with broadcasters in your region, or with a suitable expert. Whether or not viewers in the area served by the self-help site will need satellite will depend on whether broadcasters are able to guarantee that adequate coverage will be available from a terrestrial site. This option would also require households to re-point their antennas towards the alternative site, or in some cases to obtain new antennas.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services will be assisted under this program including if they are required to move to satellite. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Other matters

Gulgong, Kandos and Mudgee Town are in the Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting in the first half of 2012. The actual

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date at which switchover occurs within this period will depend on factors such as local conditions and community feedback, but will be published well in advance of switchover.

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

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Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**

REF: C346

30 March 2010

Surf Coast Shire Council

Attn: Self-Help TV Manager

PO Box 350

TORQUAY VIC 3228

Dear Sir/Madam

Broadcasters' offer to upgrade self-help television transmission sites from analog to digital

On 5 January 2010, I announced that under an agreement between the Government and commercial television broadcasters across Australia, broadcasters will upgrade a number of existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities to operate in digital.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

I am now writing to inform you that the self-help facilities at Anglesea & Aireys Inlet and Lorne have been identified by broadcasters as candidates for upgrading from analog to digital. The final decision as to whether or not these facilities will be upgraded will depend on agreement being reached with the current transmitter licence holder about the conditions under which the upgrade will be carried out.

It is important that you understand that this is an offer by the broadcasters. While the Government has strongly encouraged broadcasters to take every possible step to ensure that the site can be converted in a timely fashion, the final decision about whether and how to convert the sites is a matter for negotiation between the current licence holder and the broadcasters.

I am informed that a representative of the broadcasters will be contacting you in the near future to formally discuss their proposals and the terms of an agreement.

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For further information about the broadcasters' proposals, you should contact Alan Butorac at Regional Broadcasting Australia, on 0417 929 330 or by e-mail at alan@abden.com.au

Terms of the offer from commercial broadcasters

The free-to-air commercial broadcasters have informed me that they are prepared to offer a no-cost transmitter equipment upgrade to the self-help broadcasting facilities at Lyndoch and Angaston. This would cover replacement of the analog transmission equipment with digital transmission equipment at the existing self-help broadcasting site.

The digital equipment to be provided will transmit all digital services, including new digital multichannels, currently available in your licence area. Broadcasters will, as far as possible, ensure that the coverage of the digital transmitter is at least equal to the analog coverage currently provided by the existing analog facility. Broadcasters are also offering to provide maintenance of the upgraded equipment they install at their cost for an initial term of ten years. It is intended that the upgrade will take place at least six months before analog switch-off in your local area.

The offer being made by broadcasters is primarily related to the provision and maintenance of transmission equipment. Broadcasters have advised that the local community would be expected to continue to meet the costs of running the site, including:

- site-leasing costs,
- electricity,
- access charges, and
- other such costs associated with maintenance of the site infrastructure, such as air conditioning.

As part of this arrangement, continued access to the site for the broadcasters to provide equipment and maintenance would also need to be assured.

The local community will also be responsible for:

- keeping the site in appropriate physical condition,
- ensuring it continues to be suitable for a broadcasting facility, and
- undertake any upgrades or improvements required to the transmission site infrastructure—such as the building, power, and antenna support infrastructure.

Broadcasters will:

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- retain ownership of the equipment they provide,
- reserve the option to relocate the transmission site in future (for example, for the purpose of moving to a more suitable site), and
- hold the transmitter licence to broadcast the service.

Broadcasters have also advised that any digital transmission equipment upgrade will depend on satisfactory resolution of a range of technical matters, such as the availability of an adequate digital feed signal from the main transmitter in the licence area, and the availability of suitable radio-frequency spectrum.

An important consideration for you to be aware of is that the digital transmitters will use the same television channels as the analog service. This will mean that the analog service will be swapped directly to digital at a point in time (a so-called 'hot swap'), with no simulcast period. All residents in the area would therefore need to have converted to digital before the change-over. Broadcasters have said that there will be some outages to television services at the site while the new equipment is being installed, tested and commissioned, but they will try to keep these to a minimum.

Local broadcasters are working with the Digital Switchover Taskforce and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to address technical and licensing matters.

Broadcasters will be contacting licensees to discuss these matters further, and to clarify any outstanding issues, including the need to reach agreement about a suitable date for the upgrade. Broadcasters are also likely to seek co-operation from you to provide notices to residents informing them of developments in relation to the upgrade.

New satellite service for people unable to access terrestrial services

It would be open to you to decide not to accept the broadcasters' offer. In this case you would have two options.

You may have reached a view that the local community would rather manage the conversion of the site to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters.

It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site or sites would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

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Alternatively, households who are currently served by an analog self help facility not being upgraded, and who are otherwise unable to receive reception of the digital television services terrestrially transmitted in their area, will be eligible to receive digital television services from the new digital television satellite service which I also announced on 5 January 2010.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

In addition to the news services offered by the national broadcasters, the satellite service will also provide viewers in regional Australia with access to the local news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial licence areas. These services will be provided through a dedicated news channel.

To access the new satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required and characteristics of the viewer's home.

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households in regional areas that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who need to move to the satellite service because the self-help facility is not upgraded to digital. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to

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ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services will be assisted under this program including if they are required to move to satellite. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Other matters

Lorne is in the South West Victoria switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting in the first half of 2011. The actual date at which switchover occurs within this period will depend on factors such as local conditions and community feedback, but will be published well in advance of switchover.

Anglesea & Aireys Inlet is in the Melbourne switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting on 31 December 2013.

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

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Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio**

30 March 2010

Councillor Glenn Milne

Mayor

Mildura Rural City Council

PO Box 105

MILDURA VIC 3502

Dear Councillor Milne

Options for receiving digital television

On 5 January 2010, I announced that Government had reached an agreement with all television broadcasters which will ensure that communities that currently rely on analog self-help transmission facilities for their television services will be able to access the same number of digital services that are available in metropolitan areas.

As you are aware the Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write again to operators of self-help facilities about their options for moving to digital television.

On 10 February 2010 I wrote to inform you that broadcasters would be upgrading the self-help facility at Underbool to digital and establishing a new facility at Ouyen.

Mildura Rural City Council also holds a licence for the self-help site at Murrayville. As you are aware, site upgrades are being carried out by broadcasters, and are not being funded by the Government. The choice of sites to be converted is therefore a matter for the broadcasters to determine. Broadcasters have provided me with a 'candidate' list of sites for conversion, which does not include the site at Murrayville.

In view of this, I am now writing to you to inform you of the options available to the Murrayville community served by the analog self-help site to move to digital television.

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First, viewers served by self-help facilities that are not upgraded by broadcasters will be able to receive their television services from the new satellite service. The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to regional households that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who move to the satellite service.

This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite. Further details of this new subsidy will be announced in due course.

The new satellite service will be funded by the Government and will be available to any viewers who are unable to receive adequate reception of the terrestrial digital television services provided in their licence area.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

The new satellite service will also provide a dedicated news channel which will allow viewers in regional Australia to access the local news services currently being broadcast in their terrestrial licence area by their local commercial broadcasters. In addition to this dedicated commercial news channel, SBS news and state-based ABC news will also be available.

Besides providing communities currently reliant on self-help facilities access to an expanded range of digital-only channels for the first time, the satellite service will also offer the further benefit of relieving them of the cost of committing ongoing funding and resources to the maintenance and operation of the self-help facilities.

To receive the satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the viewer's location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required, and the characteristics of the viewer's home.

Alternatively, it is open to the community to upgrade the Murrayville services to digital itself. If you wish to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters. It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Household Assistance Scheme

**Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the
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The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a television, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services who are required to move to the new satellite service would be eligible to receive assistance under the program to install the satellite service. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Additional information

The Government is currently involved in discussions with broadcasters to finalise arrangements for the new satellite service, including viewer eligibility requirements for accessing the service, and timing of the introduction of the service. Further information about the details of the new satellite service will be made available when arrangements have been finalised.

Murrayville is in the Remote Central and Eastern switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting in the second half of 2013. The actual date at which switchover occurs within this period will depend on factors such as local conditions and community feedback.

Viewers in remote areas, including Murrayville, will be able to access the new satellite service well in advance of switchover. In the meantime, the current analog re-transmission arrangements can continue. Further information will be provided once the details of the service availability are finalised with the remote commercial broadcasters.

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If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

**Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the
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Attachment B - standard candidate letter list and letter template

Licensee	Non Candidate Sites	Candidate Sites	Switchover Areas
Byron Shire Council Water & Sewerage Services		Byron Bay, Mullumbimby Creek and Ocean Shores	Richmond/Tweed
Colac Otway Shire		Apollo Bay and Wye River	South West Victoria
District Council of Yankalilla		Cape Jervis, Carrickalinga, Myponga, Normanville and Yankalilla	Adelaide
Latrobe City Council		Boolarra and Jeeralang/Yinnar South	Gippsland
Shire of Yarra Ranges		Healesville and Monbulk	Melbourne
Shoalhaven City Council		Berry and Kangaroo Valley	Illawarra and the South Coast
Townsville City Council		Alligator Creek and Horseshoe Bay	North Queensland
Whitsunday Regional Council		Dingo Beach and Flame Tree & Jubilee Pocket	QLD Central Coast and Whitsundays
Armidale Dumaresq Council		Armidale North	North West Slopes and Plains
Barossa Council		Lyndoch and Angaston	Adelaide
Timber Communities Australia Ltd		Meander	Tasmania
Upper Lachlan Shire Council		Gunning	ACT and Southern Tablelands
Uralla Shire Council		Uralla	North West Slopes and Plains
Urban Services		Conder	ACT and Southern Tablelands
Yarrabah Community Council		Yarrabah	Far North Queensland
Gympie Regional Council		Tin Can Bay	Wide Bay
Toowoomba Regional Council		Crows Nest	Darling Downs
Tanbalm Pty Ltd		Merimbula	Illawarra and the South Coast
Patonga Beach Progress Association Inc		Patonga	Sydney

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FINAL CANDIDATE LIST LETTER TEMPLATE

REF: «letter_id»

30 March 2010

«RT_Client_Organisation_Name»
«RT_Client__Further_Details_andor_Tradin»
«RT_Client_Postal_Address»
«RT_Client_Postal_Suburb» «RT_Client_State» «RT_Client_Postcode»

Dear Sir/Madam

Broadcasters' offer to upgrade self-help television transmission sites from analog to digital

On 5 January 2010, I announced that under an agreement between the Government and commercial television broadcasters across Australia, broadcasters will upgrade a number of existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities to operate in digital.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

I am now writing to inform you that the self-help facilities at «Candidate_Sites» have been identified by broadcasters as candidates for upgrading from analog to digital. The final decision as to whether or not these facilities will be upgraded will depend on agreement being reached with the current transmitter licence holder about the conditions under which the upgrade will be carried out.

It is important that you understand that this is an offer by the broadcasters. While the Government has strongly encouraged broadcasters to take every possible step to ensure that the

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site can be converted in a timely fashion, the final decision about whether and how to convert the sites is a matter for negotiation between the current licence holder and the broadcasters.

I am informed that a representative of the broadcasters will be contacting you in the near future to formally discuss their proposals and the terms of an agreement.

For further information about the broadcasters' proposals, you should contact Alan Butorac at Regional Broadcasting Australia, on 0417 929 330 or by e-mail at alan@abden.com.au

Terms of the offer from commercial broadcasters

The free-to-air commercial broadcasters have informed me that they are prepared to offer a no-cost transmitter equipment upgrade to the self-help broadcasting facility at «candidate_site». This would cover replacement of the analog transmission equipment with digital transmission equipment at the existing self-help broadcasting site.

The digital equipment to be provided will transmit all digital services, including new digital multichannels, currently available in your licence area. Broadcasters will, as far as possible, ensure that the coverage of the digital transmitter is at least equal to the analog coverage currently provided by the existing analog facility. Broadcasters are also offering to provide maintenance of the upgraded equipment they install at their cost for an initial term of ten years. It is intended that the upgrade will take place at least six months before analog switch-off in your local area.

The offer being made by broadcasters is primarily related to the provision and maintenance of transmission equipment. Broadcasters have advised that the local community would be expected to continue to meet the costs of running the site, including:

- site-leasing costs,
- electricity,
- access charges, and
- other such costs associated with maintenance of the site infrastructure, such as air conditioning.

As part of this arrangement, continued access to the site for the broadcasters to provide equipment and maintenance would also need to be assured.

The local community will also be responsible for:

- keeping the site in appropriate physical condition,

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- ensuring it continues to be suitable for a broadcasting facility, and
- undertake any upgrades or improvements required to the transmission site infrastructure—such as the building, power, and antenna support infrastructure.

Broadcasters will:

- retain ownership of the equipment they provide,
- reserve the option to relocate the transmission site in future (for example, for the purpose of moving to a more suitable site), and
- hold the transmitter licence to broadcast the service.

Broadcasters have also advised that any digital transmission equipment upgrade will depend on satisfactory resolution of a range of technical matters, such as the availability of an adequate digital feed signal from the main transmitter in the licence area, and the availability of suitable radio-frequency spectrum.

An important consideration for you to be aware of is that the digital transmitters will use the same television channels as the analog service. This will mean that the analog service will be swapped directly to digital at a point in time (a so-called ‘hot swap’), with no simulcast period. All residents in the area would therefore need to have converted to digital before the change-over. Broadcasters have said that there will be some outages to television services at the site while the new equipment is being installed, tested and commissioned, but they will try to keep these to a minimum.

Local broadcasters are working with the Digital Switchover Taskforce and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to address technical and licensing matters.

Broadcasters will be contacting licensees to discuss these matters further, and to clarify any outstanding issues, including the need to reach agreement about a suitable date for the upgrade. Broadcasters are also likely to seek co-operation from you to provide notices to residents informing them of developments in relation to the upgrade.

New satellite service for people unable to access terrestrial services

It would be open to you to decide not to accept the broadcasters’ offer. In this case you would have two options.

You may have reached a view that the local community would rather manage the conversion of the site to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to

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the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters.

It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site or sites would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Alternatively, households who are currently served by an analog self help facility not being upgraded, and who are otherwise unable to receive reception of the digital television services terrestrially transmitted in their area, will be eligible to receive digital television services from the new digital television satellite service which I also announced on 5 January 2010.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

In addition to the news services offered by the national broadcasters, the satellite service will also provide viewers in regional Australia with access to the local news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial licence areas. These services will be provided through a dedicated news channel.

To access the new satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required and characteristics of the viewer's home.

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households in regional areas that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who need to move to the satellite service because the self-help facility is not upgraded to digital. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension

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- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services will be assisted under this program including if they are required to move to satellite. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Other matters

«Self-Help sites» are in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference»

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

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Attachment C - standard Non candidate letter list and letter template

Licensee	Non Candidate Sites	Candidate Sites	Switchover Areas
Adelaide Hills Council	Cudlee Creek and Gumeracha		Adelaide
Somerset Regional Council	Somerset Dam and Toogoolawah		Brisbane
Tasman Council	Eaglehawk Neck and Port Arthur		Tasmania
Queensland Government	Numinbah Prison and Palen Creek		Brisbane
North Burnett Regional Council	Bancroft and Moonford		Wide Bay
Cassowary Coast Regional Council	Cardwell and Tully Heads		Far North Queensland
Adelaide Brighton Cement Ltd	Peterhead		Adelaide
Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	Batchelor		Darwin
Bemm River Progress & Improvements Association Inc.	Bemm River		Gippsland
Berridale SBS Committee	Berridale		ACT and Southern Tablelands
Bland Shire Council	Wyalong		South West Slopes and Eastern Riverina
City of Perth	Perth East		Perth
City of Tea Tree Gully	Golden Grove		Adelaide
Conondale Valley Association Inc	Conondale		Brisbane
Corangamite Shire	Port Campbell		South West Victoria
Darbys Falls Progress Association &	Darbys Falls		Central Tablelands and Central Western

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Urban Landcare Group Inc.			Slopes
Dartmouth Community Television Inc	Dartmouth		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Davidson Pty Ltd	Maryville		Perth
Derby Community Development Assoc	Derby(Tas)		Tasmania
District Council of Orroroo/Carrieton	Orroroo		Spencer Gulf
Falls Creek Ski Lifts Pty Ltd	Falls Creek		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Gannawarra Shire Council	Cohuna		North Central Victoria
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	Little Swanport/Ravensdale		Tasmania
Greater Taree City Council	Mount George		Northern Rivers
Meander Valley Council	Blackstone(TAS)		Tasmania
Mitta Valley Community TV Inc	Mitta Mitta		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Mole Creek Self Help Television Association Inc	Mole Creek		Tasmania
Mount Remarkable District Council	Melrose/Wilmington		Spencer Gulf
Murrindindi Shire Council	Flowerdale & Hazeldene		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Oaky Creek Coal Pty Ltd	Tieri		QLD Central Coast and Whitsundays
Orange City Council	Orange (Rosewood)		Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes
Spring Creek Community Television Repeater Group	Tallangatta East		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Tamworth Regional Council	Nundle		North West Slopes and Plains
Television Improved Communications Scheme Inc	Howqua		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Tullah Progress Association Inc	Tullah		Tasmania
Tumbarumba Community Self Help Radio & TV Translator Group	Tumbarumba		South West Slopes and Eastern Riverina
Waratah Wynyard Council	Sisters Beach		Tasmania
Wellington Council	Wellington		Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes
Wilmot Tourist and Progress Association	Wilmot		Tasmania
Woodlands Hill Community Television Repeater Group Inc	Tallangatta Valley		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Wyangala Dam Progress Association	Wyangala		Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes
Gundagai Shire Council	Gundagai		South West Slopes and Eastern Riverina
Bright Rural Self Help TV Committee	Freeburgh/Smoko		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Hydro Electric Corporation	Wayatinah		Tasmania
Jamieson Community Group & Associated Bodies INC	Jamieson		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Parks Victoria	Tidal River		Gippsland
Seabird Caravan Park	Seabird		Perth
Buxton Progress Association Incorporated	Buxton		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray
Cobar Shire Council	Cobar, Euabalong and Nymagee		Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Australian National SA Freight	Barton, Forrest, Parachiina, Rawlinna, Tarcoola and Zanthus		Regional and Remote Western Australia and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Dalby Regional Council	Bell, Meandarra and Wandoan		Darling Downs and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Lachlan Shire Council	Lake Cargelligo, Tottenham and Tullibigeal		Griffith/Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
QR Network Pty Ltd	Almaden, Bogantungan and Coppabella		QLD Central Coast and Whitsundays and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Tenterfield Shire Council	Bolivia, Drake and Urbenville		Remote Central & Eastern Australia and Richmond/Tweed
Tumbarumba Shire Council	Mannus and Walwa/Jingellic		Goulburn Valley/Upper Murray and Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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Isaac Regional Council	Clairview, Glenden, Moranbah Town and St Lawrence		QLD Central Coast and Whitsundays and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
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REF: «Letter_id»

30 March 2010

«RT_Client_Organisation_Name»

«RT_Client__Further_Details_andor_Tradin»

«RT_Client_Postal_Address»

«RT_Client_Postal_Suburb» «RT_Client_State» «RT_Client_Postcode»

Dear Sir/Madam

Options for receiving digital television

On 5 January 2010, I announced that Government had reached an agreement with all television broadcasters which will ensure that communities that currently rely on analog self-help transmission facilities for their television services will be able to access the same number of digital services that are available in metropolitan areas.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

As site upgrades are being carried out by broadcasters, and are not being funded by the Government, the choice of sites to be converted is a matter for the broadcasters to determine. Broadcasters have provided me with a 'candidate' list of sites for conversion, which does not include the site at «Non_Candidate_Sites_list».

In view of this, I am now writing to you to inform you of the options available to the community served by the analog self-help site to move to digital television.

First, viewers served by self-help facilities that are not upgraded by broadcasters will be able to receive their television services from the new satellite service. The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to regional households that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who move to the satellite service. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite. Further details of this new subsidy will be announced in due course.

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The new satellite service will be funded by the Government and will be available to any viewers who are unable to receive adequate reception of the terrestrial digital television services provided in their licence area.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

The new satellite service will also provide a dedicated news channel which will allow viewers in regional Australia to access the local news services currently being broadcast in their terrestrial licence area by their local commercial broadcasters. In addition to this dedicated commercial news channel, ABC and SBS news will also be available.

Besides providing communities currently reliant on self-help facilities access to an expanded range of digital-only channels for the first time, the satellite service will also offer the further benefit of relieving them of the cost of committing ongoing funding and resources to the maintenance and operation of the self-help facilities.

To receive the satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the viewer's location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required, and the characteristics of the viewer's home.

Alternatively, it is open to the community to upgrade the services to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters. It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Finally, broadcasters have advised me that some areas currently served by a self-help facility may be able to receive digital services from an alternative digital terrestrial transmission site operated in the local area. This possibility should be discussed directly with broadcasters in your region, or with a suitable expert. Whether or not viewers in the area served by the self-help site will need satellite will depend on whether broadcasters are able to guarantee that adequate coverage will be available from a terrestrial site. This option would also require households to re-point their antennas towards the alternative site, or in some cases to obtain new antennas.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

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- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services who are required to move to the new satellite service would be eligible to receive assistance under the program to install the satellite service. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Additional information

The Government is currently involved in discussions with broadcasters to finalise arrangements for the new satellite service, including viewer eligibility requirements for accessing the service, and timing of the introduction of the service. In general, it is expected that viewers will be able to move to the new satellite service about six months before the switch-off of analog services in their area. Further information about the details of the new satellite service will be made available when arrangements have been finalised.

«Self_Help_Sites» in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference»

OR – if two switchover areas

«Self Help Sites» in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference».

«Self Help Sites» in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference»

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Stephen Conroy

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Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

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Attachment D - standard mixed letter list and letter template

Licensee	Non Candidate Sites	Candidate Sites	Switchover Areas
Central Coast Council	Gunns Plains	Forth	Tasmania
Derwent Valley Council	Maydena	Upper Derwent Valley	Tasmania
Mid Murray Council	Truro Grove	Mannum and Swan Reach	Adelaide
Palerang Council	Captains Flat	Burra Creek	ACT and Southern Tablelands
Parkes Shire Council	Tullamore	Peak Hill	Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes
Port Macquarie Hastings Shire Council	Bonny Hills	Long Flat and Telegraph Point	Northern Rivers
Scenic Rim Regional Council	Maroon and Mount Alford	Canungra, Kooralbyn and Rathdowney	Brisbane
Townsville City Council Water and Wastewater Unit	Kelso and Paluma	Nelly Bay	North Queensland
Tumut Shire Council	Adelong and Talbingo	Batlow	South West Slopes and Eastern Riverina
Gladstone Regional Council	Miriam Vale/Bororen	Agnes Water and Rosedale	Wide Bay
Great Lakes Council	Elizabeth Beach	Booral, Forster, Smiths Lake and Stroud	Hunter and Northern Rivers
Moorabool Shire Council	Blackwood	Yendon/Lal Lal	North Central Victoria and South West Victoria
Cairns Regional Council	Cow Bay, Daintree Village and Little Mulgrave	Mossman South and Redlynch	Far North Queensland and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
City of Lithgow Council	Glen Davis and Portland Town	Capertee and Hartley	Central Tablelands and Central Western Slopes and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Tablelands Regional Council	Chillagoe	Speewah	Far North Queensland and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Banana Shire Council	Cracow and Taroom	Thangool	Capricornia and Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Rockhampton Regional Council	Byfield and Stanage Bay	Mount Morgan	Capricornia and Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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REF: «Letter_id»

30 March 2010

«RT_Client_Organisation_Name»

«RT_Client__Further_Details_andor_Tradin»

«RT_Client_Postal_Address»

«RT_Client_Postal_Suburb» «RT_Client_State» «RT_Client_Postcode»

Dear Sir/Madam

Broadcasters' offer to upgrade self-help television transmission sites from analog to digital

On 5 January 2010, I announced that under an agreement between the Government and commercial television broadcasters across Australia, broadcasters will upgrade a number of existing regional analog 'self-help' transmission facilities to operate in digital.

The Government has agreed to fund a satellite service to deliver digital television to all Australians living in blackspots where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by the broadcasters. As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service. In addition, broadcasters agreed to upgrade a number of existing analog self-help sites to digital.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television.

I am now writing to inform you that the self-help facility at «Candidate_Sites» has been identified by broadcasters as a candidate for upgrading from analog to digital. The final decision as to whether or not this facility will be upgraded will depend on agreement being reached with the current transmitter licence holder about the conditions under which the upgrade will be carried out.

It is important that you understand that this is an offer by the broadcasters. While the Government has strongly encouraged broadcasters to take every possible step to ensure that the site can be converted in a timely fashion, the final decision about whether and how to convert the sites is a matter for negotiation between the current licence holder and the broadcasters.

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I understand that you also operate a self-help site at «Non_candidate_sites_» which is not proposed to be upgraded by the broadcasters. Options for this site are set out below.

I am informed that a representative of the broadcasters will be contacting you in the near future to formally discuss their proposals and the terms of an agreement.

For further information about the broadcasters' proposals, you should contact Alan Butorac at Regional Broadcasting Australia, on 0417 929 330 or by e-mail at alan@abden.com.au .

Terms of the offer from commercial broadcasters

The free-to-air commercial broadcasters have informed me that they are prepared to offer a no-cost transmitter equipment upgrade to the self-help broadcasting facility at «Candidate_Sites». This would cover replacement of the analog transmission equipment with digital transmission equipment at the existing self-help broadcasting site.

The digital equipment to be provided will transmit all digital services, including new digital multichannels, currently available in your licence area. Broadcasters will, as far as possible, ensure that the coverage of the digital transmitter is at least equal to the analog coverage currently provided by the existing analog facility. Broadcasters are also offering to provide maintenance of the upgraded equipment they install at their cost for an initial term of ten years. It is intended that the upgrade will take place at least six months before analog switch-off in your local area.

The offer being made by broadcasters is primarily related to the provision and maintenance of transmission equipment. Broadcasters have advised that the local community would be expected to continue to meet the costs of running the site, including:

- site-leasing costs,
- electricity,
- access charges, and
- other such costs associated with maintenance of the site infrastructure, such as air conditioning.

As part of this arrangement, continued access to the site for the broadcasters to provide equipment and maintenance would also need to be assured.

The local community will also be responsible for:

- keeping the site in appropriate physical condition,

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- ensuring it continues to be suitable for a broadcasting facility, and
- undertaking any upgrades or improvements required to the transmission site infrastructure—such as the building, power, and antenna support infrastructure.

Broadcasters will:

- retain ownership of the equipment they provide,
- reserve the option to relocate the transmission site in future (for example, for the purpose of moving to a more suitable site), and
- hold the transmitter licence to broadcast the service.

Broadcasters have also advised that any digital transmission equipment upgrade will depend on satisfactory resolution of a range of technical matters, such as the availability of an adequate digital feed signal from the main transmitter in the licence area, and the availability of suitable radio-frequency spectrum.

An important consideration for you to be aware of is that the digital transmitters will use the same television channels as the analog service. This will mean that the analog service will be swapped directly to digital at a point in time (a so-called 'hot swap'), with no simulcast period. All residents in the area would therefore need to have converted to digital before the change-over. Broadcasters have said that there will be some outages to television services at the site while the new equipment is being installed, tested and commissioned, but they will try to keep these to a minimum.

Local broadcasters are working with the Digital Switchover Taskforce and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to address technical and licensing matters.

Broadcasters will be contacting licensees to discuss these matters further, and to clarify any outstanding issues, including the need to reach agreement about a suitable date for the upgrade. Broadcasters are also likely to seek co-operation from you to provide notices to residents informing them of developments in relation to the upgrade.

New satellite service for people unable to access terrestrial services

It would be open to you to decide not to accept the broadcasters' offer. In this case you would have two options. These options apply to the site at «Non_candidate_sites_» which is not proposed to be upgraded by the broadcasters.

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First, households who are currently served by an analog self help facility not being upgraded, and who are otherwise unable to receive reception of the digital television services terrestrially transmitted in their area, will be eligible to receive digital television services from the new digital television satellite service which I also announced on 5 January 2010.

The new satellite service will feature channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks and the main national broadcaster services ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government.

In addition to the news services offered by the national broadcasters, the satellite service will also provide viewers in regional Australia with access to the local news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial licence areas. These services will be provided through a dedicated news channel.

To access the new satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required and characteristics of the viewer's home.

The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households in regional areas that are currently served by analog television self-help retransmission facilities who need to move to the satellite service because the self-help facility is not upgraded to digital. This subsidy will assist with the additional cost these households will incur in converting to satellite.

Alternatively, you may have reached a view that the local community would rather manage the conversion of the site to digital itself. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters.

It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site or sites would need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Finally, broadcasters have advised me that some areas currently served by a self-help facility may be able to receive digital services from an alternative digital terrestrial transmission site operated in the local area. This possibility should be discussed directly with broadcasters in your region, or with a suitable expert. Whether or not viewers in the area served by the self-help site will need satellite will depend on whether broadcasters are able to guarantee that adequate coverage will be available from a terrestrial site. This option would also require households to re-point their antennas towards the alternative site, or in some cases to obtain new antennas.

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Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box—specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability—and, where eligible, conduct any necessary antenna and cabling work, if required.

Eligible households served by self-help analog services will be assisted under this program including if they are required to move to satellite. These households would be eligible to receive either the Household Assistance Scheme or the \$400 assistance mentioned above, but not both. Eligible households will be contacted by Centrelink in advance of switchover.

Other matters

«Self Help Sites» in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference».

OR – if two switchover areas

«Self Help Sites» in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference».

«Self Help Sites» in the «List_of_switchover_areas» switchover area, which will switch to digital-only broadcasting «Switch_time_reference».

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely

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Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

Attachment E - standard remote letter list and letter template

Licensee	Non Candidate Sites	Candidate Sites	Switchover Areas
Omeo TV Committee	Omeo		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Southern Cross Fertilisers	The Monument		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Alice Springs Town Council	Alice Springs North		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Amata Community Council	Amata		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
AMOS Aboriginal Council	Mount Margaret		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Andamooka Progress And Opal Miners Association Inc	Andamooka		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Argyle Diamonds Limited	Argyle		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Arkaroola Pty Ltd	Arkaroola		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Aurukun Shire Council	Aurukun		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Balfours Well Community	Balfours Well		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Bamboo Creek Management P/L	Bamboo Creek		Regional and Remote Western Australia

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Bardii Aboriginal Association Inc	One Arm Point		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Beagle Bay Community Inc.	Beagle Bay		Regional and Remote Western Australia
BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd	Yandicoogina		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Bidyadanga Aboriginal Community La Grange Inc.	La Grange		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Birla Mt Gordon Pty Ltd	Gunpowder		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Booringa Shire Council	Mungallala		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Bouli Shire Council	Bouli		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Broken Hill Speed Boat Club Inc	Copi Hollow		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Buchan Community TV Scheme	Buchan		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Burke Shire Council	Burketown		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Burringurrah Community Aboriginal Corp	Burringurrah		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Canteen Creek Owairtilla Association	Canteen Creek		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Cape Flattery Silica Mines Pty Ltd	Cape Flattery Mine		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Central Desert Shire - Atijere	Harts Range		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Charters Towers Regional Council	Greenvale		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Colinta Holding P/L	McArthur River		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Coomalie Community Government Council	Adelaide River		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Country Television & Antenna Service	Wave Rock		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Croydon Shire Council	Croydon		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Cumborah Community Inc	Cumborah		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Dargo TV Management Group Inc	Dargo		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Davenport Community Council Inc	Davenport		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Defence Support Centre Woomera	Woomera		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Delaware North Kings Canyon Pty Ltd	Kings Canyon Resort		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Dept of Infrastructure Planning & Environment	Katherine Gorge		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
District Council of Elliston	Elliston		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
District Council of Kimba	Kimba		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
District Council of Yorke Peninsula	Marion Bay		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation	Djarindjin		Regional and Remote Western Australia

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Doomadgee Media Assoc Inc	Doomadgee		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Douglas Daly Research Farm	Douglas Daly		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Ensay Community TV Scheme	Ensay		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Eretso P/L	Nanga Bay		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Ernabella Community Council	Ernabella		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Glendambo Progress Assoc	Glendambo		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Glengary Grawin Sheeppark Miners Assoc	Glengarry and Grawin		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Gracetown Progress Association Inc.	Gracetown		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Great Southern Forestry NT Pty Ltd	Maxwell Creek Forestry HQ		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Groote Eylandt Mining Company Pty Ltd Attn IT Manager	Groote Eylandt		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Helen Springs Pastoral Co P/L	Helen Springs		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Henry Walker Contracting	Woolwonga Mine		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Henry Walker Contracting Pty Ltd	Weeli Wolli Creek		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Henry Walker Engineering Pty Ltd	Yandill Minesite		Regional and Remote Western Australia
High Country Television Committee	Swifts Creek		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Hope Vale Aboriginal Council	Hope Vale		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Iga Warta Homeland Aboriginal Corporation	Iga Warta		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Imparja Television Pty Ltd	Kingscote		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Indulkana Community Council	Indulkana		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Intjartnama Aboriginal Corporation	Intjartnama		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Jarlmadangah Aboriginal Corporation	Jarlmadangah		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Jigalong Community Inc.	Jigalong		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Kalka Community	Kalka		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Kaltijiti Community Aboriginal Corporation	Fregon		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Kanpi Community	Kanpi		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Karalundi Aboriginal Education Centre	Karalundi		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Kenmore Park/Yunyarinyi Community	Kenmore Park		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Kiwirrkurra Council Aboriginal Corporation	Kiwirrkurra		Regional and Remote Western Australia

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Koorabye Aboriginal Corporation	Ngalapita		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Kowanyama Aboriginal Shire Council	Kowanyama		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Kundat Djaru Aboriginal Corporation	Kundat Djaru		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Lockhart River Aboriginal Council	Lockhart River		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Longreach Regional Council - Ilfracombe Branch	Ilfracombe		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Lyndhurst Progress & Development Assoc Inc	Lyndhurst		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
M M C Management P/L	Broads Dams		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Macmahon Contractors	Honeymoon Well Mine		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Main Roads WA	Woodie Woodie		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Mapoon Aboriginal Council	Mapoon		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Marla Progress Assoc Inc	Marla		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Marree Progress Assoc Inc	Marree		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
McArthur River Mining	McArthur River Mine		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
McKinlay Shire Council	Julia Creek		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Milikapiti Community Government Council	Milikapiti		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Mimili Community	Mimili		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Mindibungu Aboriginal Corporation	Billiluna		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Mintabie Miners Progress Assoc	Mintabie		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
MMG Golden Grove Pty Ltd	Golden Grove Mine		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Monkey Mia Dolphin Resort	Monkey Mia		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Moogoolarung Trading Assoc	Robinson River		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Mornington Shire Council	Gununa		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Mount Isa City Council - Attn Accounts Payable	Camooweal		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Mugarinya Community Association Inc.	Yandearra		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Mulan Aboriginal Corporation	Lake Gregory		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Murrawari Aboriginal Corp	Enngonia		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Napranum Community Council	Napranum		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Nepabunna Community Inc	Nepabunna		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Newcrest Mining Limited	Telfer		Regional and Remote Western Australia

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Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited	Nhulunbuy		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Ningaloo Light House Resort Exmouth Pty Ltd	Vlaming Head		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Nyapari Community	Nyapari		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Oombulgurri Association Inc.	Oombulgurri		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Osborne Mines (Placer Pacific)	Osborne Mines		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Pallottine Mission	Pallottine Mission		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Pandanus Park Aboriginal Corporation	Pandanus Park		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Parnngurr Aboriginal Corporation (Administrator Appointed)	Parnngurr		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Paupiyala Tjarutja Aboriginal Corporation	Tjuntjuntjara		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Peko-Wallsend Operations Limited	Warrego		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Penong & Districts Progress Association Inc	Penong		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Pentland Progress Association	Pentland		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Peppimenarti Community Council Inc.	Peppimenarti		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Pipalyatjara Community Inc	Pipalyatjara		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Pormpuraaw Aboriginal Council	Pormpuraaw		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Precious Metals Australia Ltd	PalmSprings Gold Mine		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Prevelly Wilderness Progress Association	Prevelly		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Punmu Aboriginal Corporation	Punmu		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Purnululu Aboriginal Corporation	Wurreranginy Community		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Rawnsley Park Tourism P/L	Rawnsley Park Station		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Richmond Shire Council	Richmond		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Royal Australian Air Force	Learmonth		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Scotdesco Enterprises P/L	Bookabie		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Shire of Boddington	Boddington		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Broomehill-Tambellup	Tambellup		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Cue	Cue		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Dalwallinu	Dalwallinu		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Esperance	Salmon Gums		Regional and Remote Western Australia

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Shire of Irwin	Dongara		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Kellerberrin	Kellerberrin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Koorda	Koorda		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Kulin	Kulin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Laverton	Laverton		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Leonora	Leonora		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Menzies	Menzies		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Moora	MooraTown		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Mukinbudin	Mukinbudin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Murchison	Murchison		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Murray	Mandurah		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Northampton	Kalbarri		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Nungarin	Nungarin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Sandstone	Sandstone		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Shark Bay	Denham		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Upper Gascoyne	Gascoyne Junction		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Wandering	Wandering		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Westonia	Westonia		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Wiluna	Wiluna		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Wongan Ballidu	Wongan Hills Town		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Yalgoo	Yalgoo		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Sunwater	Burdekin Falls		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Tanami Exploration NL	Tanami Gold Mine Village		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Tapatjatjaka Community Govt Council	Titjikala		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
The Director Corporate and Community Services Barkly Shire Council	Ampilatwatja		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Tjirrkarli Aboriginal Corporation	Tjirrkarli		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Tjukurla Community Inc.	Tjukurla		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Umuwa Community	Umuwa		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Wakathuni Aboriginal Corporation	Wakathuni		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Wallatinna Community	Wallatinna		Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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Wanarn Community	Wanarn		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Wangkatjungka Community Inc	Wangkatjungka		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Warakurna Community Inc	Warakurna		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Warburton Community Inc	Warburton (WA)		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Warmun Community (Turkey Creek) Inc.	Warmun		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Watarru Community Inc	Watarru		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Watinuma Community	Watinuma		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Werenbun Aboriginal Corporation	Werenbun		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Woorabinda Aboriginal Council	Woorabinda		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Wudinna District Council	Wudinna		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council	Wujal Wujal		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Wurankuwu Aboriginal Corporation	Wurankuwu		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Wytaliba Ltd	Weilmoringle		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Yakanarra Aboriginal Corporation	Yakanarra		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Yalata Community Inc	Yalata		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Yantjarrwu Outstation Resource Centre Inc	Wudykapildiya		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Yulga Jinna Aboriginal Corporation	YulgaJinna		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Yungngora Aboriginal Community Council	Yungngora		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Yunta District Hall Inc	Yunta		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Australian Agricultural Company	Brunette Downs		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Alawa Aboriginal Corporation	Hodgson Downs		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
The North Australian Pastoral Company Pty Ltd	Alexandria Station Homestead		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Amber Motel (Eucla) P/L	Eucla		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Genesee & Wyoming Australia Pty Ltd	Cook		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Woodside Energy Ltd	Phillip Point		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Minara Resources Limited	Murrin Murrin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Australian Property Projects Pty Ltd	South Alligator-Kakadu Resort		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Voyages Hotels and Resorts Pty Ltd	Yulara		Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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Bayulu Community Inc	Bayulu		Regional and Remote Western Australia
BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd	Leinster		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Yiyili Aboriginal Corporation	Yiyili		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Kookynie Resources	Oriental Well		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Kalumburu Aboriginal Corporation	Kalumburu		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Coalmine Beach Holiday Park	Coalmine Beach		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Coral Bay Progress Association	Coral Bay		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Erlunda Motel Pty Ltd	Erlunda		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Kycodaheam Pty Ltd	Eighty Mile Beach		Regional and Remote Western Australia
FMR Investments Pty Ltd	Eloise Mine		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
NRGeneration Holdings (No. 2) GmbH and Others	Leigh Creek South		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Fowlers Bay Progress Assoc Inc.	Fowlers Bay		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Kakadu Tourism (GLC) Pty. Ltd.	Cooinda		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Laramba Council	Laramba		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Base Commander RAAF Tindal	Tindal		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Mimbi Community	Mimbi		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Nyirripi Community Council	Nyirripi		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Outback Areas Community Development Trust	Oodnadatta		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Ora Banda Bunch Pty Ltd	OraBanda		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Orleans Bay Pty Ltd	Wharton		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Warlpiri Media Association Inc.	Yuendumu		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Shark Bay Resources	Useless Loop		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Bruce Rock	Bruce Rock		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Condingup District Recreation Association	Condingup/Howick		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Tovehead P/L & Branir P/L	Tipperary		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Parks Australia	Uluru		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Waddi Bush Resort	Waddi Bush Resort		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Wave Hill Station	Wave Hill		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Gambamora Industries Pty Ltd	Cattle Creek		Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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Williams Creek Progress Association	William Creek		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Willowra Community Inc	Willowra		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Willstead Tourist Park Pty Ltd	Fishery Beach		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Wirrimanu Aboriginal Corporation	Balgo		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Works Australia Dept Admin Services	Maralinga		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Urapuntja Council Aboriginal Corp	Aniltji, Anterrengey, Arnkawenyerr, Atheley, Atikirra, Camel Camp, Kurrajong, Mosquito Bore, Soakage Bore and Soapy Bore		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Australian National Railways	Chandler, Kulgera and Manguri		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Balonne Shire Council	Bollon, Dirranbandi and Thallon		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Barcoo Shire Council	Jundah, Stonehenge and Windorah		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Bulloo Shire Council	Hungerford and Thargomindah		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Carpentaria Shire Council	Karumba and Normanton		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
City of Albany	Albany West and Wellstead		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Cloncurry Shire Council	Cloncurry and Dajarra		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
District Council of Streaky Bay	Mount Hall, Poochera, Streaky Bay and Wirrulla		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
East Arnhem Shire Council	Angurugu, Bickerton Island, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Umbakumba and Yirrkala		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Etheridge Shire Council	Einsleigh, Forsayth, Georgetown and Mount Surprise		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Glen Innes Severn Council	Deepwater and Emmaville		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Irrunytju Community Inc.	Blackstone, Coonana, Cosmo Newberry, Jameson (Mantamaru), Karilywara and Wingellina		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Looma Community Inc.	Camballin, Looma and Looma South		Regional and Remote Western Australia
MacDonnell Shire Council	Areyonga, Docker River, Finke, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Imanpa, Kintore, Mount Liebig, Papunya, Santa Teresa and		Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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	Wallace Rock Hole		
Murweh Shire Council	Augathella and Morven		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council	Bamaga, Injinoo, New Mapoon, Seisia and Umagico		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Pilbara Meta Maya Regional Aboriginal Corporation	Warralong and Youngaleena		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Quilpie Shire Council	Adavale, Eromanga and Quilpie		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Roper Gulf Shire Council	Barunga, Beswick, Borrooloola, Bulman, Jilkminggan, Mataranka, Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Urapunga		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Santos Limited	Ballera, Jackson Oil Field, Mereenie and Moomba		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Shire of Coorow	Coorow, Green Head and Leeman		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Dandaragan	Badgingarra, Cervantes and Jurien		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Denmark	Denmark and Peaceful Bay		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Gnowangerup	Borden, Gnowangerup and Ongerup		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Kent	Nyabing and Pingrup		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Kondinin	Hyden and Kondinin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Lake Grace	Lake Grace, Lake King and Newdegate		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Mt Marshall Shire	Beacon and Bencubbin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Ravensthorpe	Hopetoun (WA), Munglinup and Ravensthorpe		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Trayning	Kununoppin and Trayning		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Woodside Energy Ltd	Goodwyn and North Rankin		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Torres Strait Island Regional Council	Badu Island, Boigu Island, Coconut Island, Darnley Island, Dauan Island, Kubin, Mabuig Island, Murray Islands, Saibai Island, St Pauls, Stephens Island, Sue Island, Yam Island and Yorke Islands		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Roma Regional Council	Injune, Surat, Wallumbilla and Yuleba		Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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Central Darling Shire Council	Ivanhoe, Menindee, Sunset Strip and White Cliffs		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Central Desert Shire Council	Alyuen, Engawala, Lajamanu, Nturiya, Pmara Jutunta, Ti Tree, Wilora and Yuelamu		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Victoria Daly Shire Council	Daguragu, Daly River, Kalkaringi, Palumpa, Pine Creek, Timber Creek, Wadeye and Yarralin		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Diamantina Shire Council	Bedourie and Birdsville		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Longreach Regional Council	Isisford and Yaraka		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Barcaldine Regional Council	Alpha, Aramac, Barcaldine, Jericho and Muttaborra		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service	East Alligator, Jim Jim and Mary River		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Paspaley Pearls	Knocker Bay and Port Bremmer		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Shire of East Pilbara	Marble Bar and Nullagine		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Shire of Jerramungup	Bremer Bay, Bremer Bay South, Gairdner and Jerramungup		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Attorney - General Department	Christmas Island Drumsite, Christmas Island Rocky Point and Cocos Islands (West Island)		Regional and Remote Western Australia
Tiwi Islands Shire Council	Bathurst Island and Pularumpi		Remote Central & Eastern Australia
Barkly Shire Council	Ali Curung, Arlparra, Elliott, Imangara and Lake Nash		Remote Central & Eastern Australia

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REF: «Letter_id»

30 March 2010

«RT_Client_Organisation_Name»

«RT_Client_Further_Details_andor_Tradin»

«RT_Client_Postal_Address»

«RT_Client_Postal_Suburb» «RT_Client_State» «RT_Client_Postcode»

Dear Sir/Madam

Options for receiving digital television at self-help re-transmission facilities

On 5 January 2010, I announced that Government had reached an agreement with all free to air television broadcasters which will ensure that communities that currently rely on analog self-help transmission facilities for their television services will be able to access the same number of digital services that are available in metropolitan areas.

On 12 January 2010 I wrote to all local Councils to advise them of the Government's announcement and indicated that I would write further to operators of self-help television re-transmission facilities about their options in regard to moving to digital television. Our records indicate that you are the licensee of a self-help re-transmission facility, and I am now writing to you to provide this further information.

The Government has agreed to fund a Direct-To-Home (DTH) satellite service to deliver free to air digital television to all Australians living in areas where there is inadequate or no coverage provided by terrestrial broadcasts, and to all viewers in remote areas of Australia.

As you may be aware, the Government introduced legislation into Parliament on 18 March 2010 to support the implementation of the satellite service.

The satellite service is good news for remote Australian viewers. For the first time, remote area viewers will be able to see the same number of channels as is provided by broadcasters in metropolitan and most regional areas of Australia.

The new satellite service will be provided by the current remote licence area broadcasters, WIN and Prime in Western Australia, and Southern Cross Media and Imparja in other areas of Australia. The satellite service will feature remote broadcaster channels carrying programs from the Seven, Nine and Ten networks in standard definition and high definition, the main national broadcaster channels ABC1 and SBS ONE, and the additional digital channels ABC2, ABC3, ABCHD, SBS TWO, ONE HD, GO! and 7TWO. A new ABC 24 hour news channel is expected to replace the current ABCHD service later this year. The satellite service will be funded by the Government, and after the switchover to digital television in 2013 is expected to replace the existing satellite Remote Area Broadcasting Service (RABS).

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With the introduction of the satellite service, operators of self-help facilities in remote areas now have two options to receive free to air digital television.

All viewers in remote licence areas currently receiving the RABS service through a self-help re-transmission service will be eligible to migrate to the new satellite service. To receive the satellite service, households will need to install satellite reception equipment, including a dish and a digital set-top box. The costs of installation will vary depending on the viewer's location, the size of the satellite receiving dish required, and the characteristics of the viewer's home. The Government will provide a subsidy of \$400 to households who convert from remote self-help re-transmission services to the new digital DTH satellite service.

For viewers in indigenous self-help communities, the Government will provide an increased subsidy to assist with the cost of moving to the satellite service. The detail of the indigenous satellite subsidy is still being finalised, but will reflect the increased cost of providing DTH services in remote Indigenous communities.

The Government also recognises the unique circumstances affecting a number of indigenous communities served by self-help retransmission services, including that a number of these communities provide for transmission of local or community based content. There are a number of complex issues that need to be considered in transitioning indigenous communities and I will be giving careful consideration to these over the next few months. However, the Government-funded satellite service will be the primary means by which the Government will support access to digital television in remote Australia.

Should communities with self-help services elect not to take up the Government-funded DTH satellite service, they will have the option of converting existing self-help retransmission services to digital themselves. If your community wishes to explore this option, you will need to talk to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) about the availability of suitable television spectrum and other technical matters. It is important to note that any communities electing to convert their self-help facilities themselves, rather than accessing the Government-funded satellite service, will need to do so at their own cost. You will also need to take account of the switchover date for your area (see below) as the site will need to be converted in advance of switchover.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Government is implementing the Household Assistance Scheme to provide assistance to vulnerable Australians in the move to digital television. A household will be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme where they own a TV, live within the area switching over, and where one or more residents are in receipt of the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension;
- Disability Support Pension;
- Carer Payment;

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- Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Service Pension or the DVA income-support supplement payment.

The scheme involves a government contractor visiting an eligible household to supply, install and demonstrate (at no cost to the householder) a high-definition set-top box – specifically chosen to ensure that it meets the needs of the elderly and people with a disability – and where eligible, conduct any necessary satellite dish and cabling work, if required. Households who are eligible will be contacted by the Government in advance of switchover in their area.

Switchover dates


The remote broadcaster licence areas of Western Australia, and Remote Central and Eastern Australia, will switchover to digital in the second half of 2013. The actual date at which switchover occurs within this period will depend on factors such as local conditions and community feedback, but will be published well in advance of switchover.

Thus there is still a period of time before communities have to reach final decisions on when and how to convert. Viewers in remote areas will be able to access the new satellite service well in advance of switchover. In the meantime, the current analog re-transmission arrangements can continue. Further information will be provided once the details of the service availability are finalised with the remote commercial broadcasters.

I understand that you currently operate a self-help broadcasting facility in the «Non_Candidate_Site» area.

If you have any questions about the matters discussed in this letter, please contact Viewer Access and Transmission Planning, at the Digital Switchover Taskforce, on 1800 069 244 or by email at selfhelp@dbcde.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband,

Communications and the Digital Economy

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Question No: [p 69]

Hansard Ref: on notice

Topic: Sites not to be converted

Senator Fisher asked:

Senator FISHER—Perhaps the department would on notice do the committee and the community the service of doing a comparison and identifying the current self-help sites which by default are left out—that is, which are not on your list 1 or list 2—which means they are left swinging, which may or may not have a consequence.

Answer:

The following is a list of all self help sites known to the Department which are not included on “list 1” of the broadcasters’ candidate list. These are sites which are not intended to be upgraded to digital by commercial broadcasters and include sites on “list 2” of the broadcasters’ list.

Area Served	State
Bourke Town	NSW
Brewarrina	NSW
Lightning Ridge	NSW
Berridale	NSW
Bolivia	NSW
Cobar	NSW
Copi Hollow	NSW
Cumborah	NSW
Darbys Falls	NSW
Deepwater	NSW
Drake	NSW
Elizabeth Beach	NSW
Emmaville	NSW
Enngonia	NSW
Euabalong	NSW
Glen Davis	NSW
Glengarry and Grawin	NSW
Goodooga	NSW
Gulgong	NSW
Ivanhoe	NSW
Lake Cargelligo	NSW
Area Served	State
Mannus	NSW
Menindee	NSW

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Mount George	NSW
Nundle	NSW
Nymagee	NSW
Sunset Strip	NSW
Tottenham	NSW
Tullamore	NSW
Tullibigeal	NSW
Urbenville	NSW
Weilmoringle	NSW
Wellington	NSW
White Cliffs	NSW
Wyalong	NSW
Wyangala	NSW
Balranald	NSW
Kandos	NSW
Khancoban	NSW
Adelong	NSW
Bonny Hills	NSW
Captains Flat	NSW
Gundagai	NSW
Orange (Rosewood)	NSW
Portland Town	NSW
Talbingo	NSW
Tumbarumba	NSW
Walwa/Jingellic	NSW
Jabiru	NT
Adelaide River	NT
Alexandria Station Homestead	NT
Ali Curung	NT
Alice Springs North	NT
Alyuen	NT
Ampilatwatja	NT
Angurugu	NT
Aniltji	NT
Anterrengey	NT
Areyonga	NT
Arparra	NT
Arnkawenyerr	NT
Atheley	NT
Atikirra	NT
Barunga	NT
Bathurst Island	NT
Beswick	NT
Bickerton Island	NT
Borrooloola	NT

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Brunette Downs	NT
Area Served	State
Bulman	NT
Camel Camp	NT
Canteen Creek	NT
Cattle Creek	NT
Cooinda	NT
Daguragu	NT
Daly River	NT
Docker River	NT
Douglas Daly	NT
East Alligator	NT
Elliott	NT
Engawala	NT
Erlunda	NT
Finke	NT
Galiwinku	NT
Gapuwiyak	NT
Groote Eylandt	NT
Haasts Bluff	NT
Harts Range	NT
Helen Springs	NT
Hermannsburg	NT
Hodgson Downs	NT
Imangara	NT
Imanpa	NT
Intjartnama	NT
Jilkminggan	NT
Jim Jim	NT
Kalkaringi	NT
Katherine Gorge	NT
Kings Canyon Resort	NT
Kintore	NT
Knocker Bay	NT
Kulgera	NT
Kurrajong	NT
Lajamanu	NT
Lake Nash	NT
Laramba	NT
Maningrida	NT
Mary River	NT
Mataranka	NT
Maxwell Creek Forestry HQ	NT
McArthur River	NT

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McArthur River Mine	NT
Mereenie	NT
Milikapiti	NT
Milingimbi	NT
Minjilang	NT
Area Served	State
Mosquito Bore	NT
Mount Liebig	NT
Ngukurr	NT
Nhulunbuy	NT
Nturiya	NT
Numbulwar	NT
Nyirripi	NT
Oenpelli	NT
Palumpa	NT
Papunya	NT
Peppimenarti	NT
Pine Creek	NT
Pmara Jutunta	NT
Port Bremmer	NT
Pularumpi	NT
Ramingining	NT
Robinson River	NT
Santa Teresa	NT
Soakage Bore	NT
Soapy Bore	NT
South Alligator - Kakadu Resort	NT
Ti Tree	NT
Timber Creek	NT
Tindal	NT
Tipperary	NT
Titjikala	NT
Uluru	NT
Umbakumba	NT
Urapunga	NT
Wadeye	NT
Wallace Rock Hole	NT
Warrego	NT
Warruwi	NT
Wave Hill	NT
Werenbun	NT
Willowra	NT
Wilora	NT
Woolwonga Mine	NT

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Wudykapildiya	NT
Wurankuwu	NT
Yarralin	NT
Yirrkala	NT
Yuelamu	NT
Yuendumu	NT
Yulara	NT
Batchelor	NT
Blackall	QLD
Area Served	State
Cooktown	QLD
Cunnamulla	QLD
Hughenden	QLD
Thursday Island	QLD
Weipa	QLD
Winton	QLD
Adavale	QLD
Almaden	QLD
Alpha	QLD
Anakie	QLD
Aramac	QLD
Augathella	QLD
Aurukun	QLD
Ayton	QLD
Badu Island	QLD
Ballera	QLD
Bamaga	QLD
Bancroft	QLD
Barcaldine	QLD
Bedourie	QLD
Birdsville	QLD
Bogantungan	QLD
Boigu Island	QLD
Bollon	QLD
Boulia	QLD
Burdekin Falls	QLD
Burketown	QLD
Byfield	QLD
Camooweal	QLD
Cape Flattery Mine	QLD
Chillagoe	QLD
Clairview	QLD
Cloncurry	QLD
Coconut Island	QLD
Coen	QLD

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Conondale	QLD
Coppabella	QLD
Cow Bay	QLD
Cracow	QLD
Croydon	QLD
Daintree Village	QLD
Dajarra	QLD
Darnley Island	QLD
Dauan Island	QLD
Dirranbandi	QLD
Doomadgee	QLD
Einsleigh	QLD
Eloise Mine	QLD
Area Served	State
Eromanga	QLD
Eulo	QLD
Forsayth	QLD
Georgetown	QLD
Greenvale	QLD
Gunpowder	QLD
Gununa	QLD
Hope Vale	QLD
Hungerford	QLD
Ilfracombe	QLD
Injinoo	QLD
Injune	QLD
Isisford	QLD
Jackson Oil Field	QLD
Jericho	QLD
Julia Creek	QLD
Jundah	QLD
Karumba	QLD
Kowanyama	QLD
Kubin	QLD
Lakeland Roadhouse	QLD
Little Mulgrave	QLD
Lockhart River	QLD
Mabuiag Island	QLD
Mapoon	QLD
Maroon	QLD
Meandarra	QLD
Moonford	QLD
Morven	QLD
Mount Surprise	QLD
Mungallala	QLD

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Murray Islands	QLD
Muttaborra	QLD
Napranum	QLD
New Mapoon	QLD
Normanton	QLD
Numinbah Prison	QLD
Osborne Mines	QLD
Palen Creek	QLD
Paluma	QLD
Pentland	QLD
Pormpuraaw	QLD
Quilpie	QLD
Richmond	QLD
Saibai Island	QLD
Seisia	QLD
Somerset Dam	QLD
St Lawrence	QLD
Area Served	State
St Pauls	QLD
Stanage Bay	QLD
Stephens Island	QLD
Stonehenge	QLD
Sue Island	QLD
Surat	QLD
Tambo	QLD
Taroom	QLD
Thallon	QLD
Thargomindah	QLD
The Monument	QLD
Umagico	QLD
Wallumbilla	QLD
Wandoan	QLD
Willows	QLD
Windorah	QLD
Woorabinda	QLD
Wujal Wujal	QLD
Wyandra	QLD
Yam Island	QLD
Yaraka	QLD
Yorke Islands	QLD
Yowah	QLD
Yuleba	QLD
Springsure	QLD
Bell	QLD
Cardwell	QLD

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Glenden	QLD
Kelso	QLD
Miriam Vale/Bororen	QLD
Moranbah Town	QLD
Mount Alford	QLD
Tieri	QLD
Toogoolawah	QLD
Tully Heads	QLD
Coober Pedy	SA
Amata	SA
Andamooka	SA
Arkaroola	SA
Balfours Well	SA
Barton	SA
Bookabie	SA
Chandler	SA
Cook	SA
Davenport	SA
Elliston	SA
Ernabella	SA
Fowlers Bay	SA
Area Served	State
Fregon	SA
Glendambo	SA
Hawker	SA
Iga Warta	SA
Indulkana	SA
Kalka	SA
Kanpi	SA
Kenmore Park	SA
Kimba	SA
Kingscote	SA
Leigh Creek South	SA
Lyndhurst	SA
Manguri	SA
Maralinga	SA
Marion Bay	SA
Marla	SA
Marree	SA
Melrose/Wilmington	SA
Mimili	SA
Mintabie	SA
Moomba	SA
Mount Hall	SA
Nepabunna	SA

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Nyapari	SA
Oodnadatta	SA
Orroroo	SA
Parachilna	SA
Penong	SA
Pipalyatjara	SA
Poochera	SA
Rawnsley Park Station	SA
Streaky Bay	SA
Tarcoola	SA
Truro Grove	SA
Umuwa	SA
Wallatina	SA
Watarru	SA
Watinuma	SA
William Creek	SA
Wirrulla	SA
Woomera	SA
Wudinna	SA
Yalata	SA
Yunta	SA
Burra	SA
Quorn	SA
Cudlee Creek	SA
Golden Grove	SA
Area Served	State
Gumeracha	SA
Peterhead	SA
Blackstone (TAS)	TAS
Eaglehawk Neck	TAS
Gunns Plains	TAS
Little Swanport/Ravensdale	TAS
Mole Creek	TAS
Port Arthur	TAS
Sisters Beach	TAS
Tullah	TAS
Wayatinah	TAS
Wilmot	TAS
St Helens	TAS
Derby (Tas)	TAS
Maydena	TAS
Bemm River	VIC
Blackwood	VIC
Buchan	VIC

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Buxton	VIC
Cohuna	VIC
Dargo	VIC
Dartmouth	VIC
Ensay	VIC
Falls Creek	VIC
Flowerdale & Hazeldene	VIC
Freeburgh/Smoko	VIC
Jamieson	VIC
Mitta Mitta	VIC
Murrayville	VIC
Omeo	VIC
Port Campbell	VIC
Swifts Creek	VIC
Tallangatta East	VIC
Tallangatta Valley	VIC
Tidal River	VIC
Tawonga South	VIC
Howqua	VIC
Bridgetown	WA
Carnamah	WA
Dampier	WA
Fitzroy Crossing	WA
Halls Creek	WA
Kambalda	WA
Kojonup	WA
Kununurra East	WA
Meekatharra	WA
Area Served	State
Merredin	WA
Morawa	WA
Mullewa	WA
Narembeen	WA
Norseman	WA
Pannawonica	WA
Paraburdoo	WA
Pemberton	WA
Roebourne	WA
Southern Cross	WA
Wyndham	WA
Albany West	WA
Argyle	WA
Badgingarra	WA
Balgo	WA

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Bamboo Creek	WA
Bayulu	WA
Beacon	WA
Beagle Bay	WA
Bencubbin	WA
Billiluna	WA
Blackstone	WA
Boddington	WA
Borden	WA
Bremer Bay	WA
Bremer Bay South	WA
Broads Dams	WA
Bruce Rock	WA
Burringurrah	WA
Camballin	WA
Cervantes	WA
Christmas Island Drumsite	WA
Christmas Island Rocky Point	WA
Coalmine Beach	WA
Cocos Islands (West Island)	WA
Condingup/Howick	WA
Coolgardie	WA
Coonana	WA
Coorow	WA
Coral Bay	WA
Cosmo Newberry	WA
Cue	WA
Dalwallinu	WA
Denham	WA
Denmark	WA
Area Served	State
Djarindjin	WA
Dongara	WA
Eighty Mile Beach	WA
Eneabba	WA
Eucla	WA
Fishery Beach	WA
Forrest	WA
Gairdner	WA
Gascoyne Junction	WA
Gnowangerup	WA
Golden Grove Mine	WA
Goodwyn	WA

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Gracetown	WA
Green Head	WA
Honeymoon Well Mine	WA
Hopetoun (WA)	WA
Hyden	WA
Jameson (Mantamaru)	WA
Jarlmadangah	WA
Jerramungup	WA
Jigalong	WA
Jurien	WA
Kalbarri	WA
Kalumburu	WA
Karalundi	WA
Karilywara	WA
Karratha South	WA
Kellerberrin	WA
Kiwirrkurra	WA
Kondinin	WA
Koorda	WA
Kulin	WA
Kundat Djaru	WA
Kununoppin	WA
La Grange	WA
Lake Grace	WA
Lake Gregory	WA
Lake King	WA
Laverton	WA
Learmonth	WA
Leeman	WA
Leinster	WA
Leonora	WA
Looma	WA
Looma South	WA
Mandurah	WA
Marble Bar	WA
Marvel Loch	WA
Area Served	State
Menzies	WA
Mimbi	WA
Monkey Mia	WA
Moora Town	WA
Mount Magnet	WA
Mount Margaret	WA
Mukinbudin	WA
Munglinup	WA

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Muradup	WA
Murchison	WA
Murrin Murrin	WA
Nanga Bay	WA
Newdegate	WA
Ngalapita	WA
North Rankin	WA
Northcliffe	WA
Nullagine	WA
Nungarin	WA
Nyabing	WA
One Arm Point	WA
Ongerup	WA
Onslow	WA
Oombulgurri	WA
Ora Banda	WA
Oriental Well	WA
Pallottine Mission	WA
Palm Springs Gold Mine	WA
Pandanus Park	WA
Parnngurr	WA
Peaceful Bay	WA
Phillip Point	WA
Pingrup	WA
Prevelly	WA
Punmu	WA
Quinninup	WA
Ravensthorpe	WA
Rawlinna	WA
Salmon Gums	WA
Sandstone	WA
Seabird	WA
Tambellup	WA
Tanami Gold Mine Village	WA
Telfer	WA
Tjirrkarli	WA
Tjukurla	WA
Tjuntjuntjara	WA
Area Served	State
Trayning	WA
Useless Loop	WA
Vlaming Head	WA
Waddi Bush Resort	WA
Wakathuni	WA

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Walpole	WA
Wanarn	WA
Wandering	WA
Wangkatjungka	WA
Warakurna	WA
Warburton (WA)	WA
Warmun	WA
Warralong	WA
Wave Rock	WA
Weeli Wolli Creek	WA
Wellstead	WA
Westonia	WA
Wharton	WA
Wickham	WA
Wiluna	WA
Wingellina	WA
Wongan Hills Town	WA
Woodie Woodie	WA
Wurreranginy Community	WA
Yakanarra	WA
Yalgoo	WA
Yandearra	WA
Yandi II Minesite	WA
Yandicoogina	WA
Yiyili	WA
Youngaleena	WA
Yulga Jinna	WA
Yungngora	WA
Zanthus	WA
Maryville	WA
Perth East	WA

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Question No: p 73

Hansard Ref: In writing

Topic: NOTIFICATION OF SELF-HELP CONVERSION

Senator Fisher asked:

On notice, can you indicate to the Committee what will be that provision of notice, what the Department considers to be adequate notice and—you have said that in the vast majority of cases you will—can you indicate those circumstances in which adequate notice will not be provided and why not?

Answer:

It is anticipated that six months notice of conversion will be provided to viewers who will receive their services from a converted self-help facility at switchover.

It has not been possible to provide six months notice to viewers that are reliant on the self-help facility in Underbool as switchover is to occur in Mildura/Sunraysia on 30 June 2010 and broadcasters only agreed to convert the facility early in 2010.

However, whether a self-help facility is to be converted to digital, and the date on which the conversion is to occur, is dependent on decisions made independently by broadcasters and self-help licensees. The Department is working closely with broadcasters and once broadcasters and self-help licensees have determined to convert a self-help facility will seek to advise viewers as early as possible about their switchover options.

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Question No: 1 to 10

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: ACCESS TO THE NEW SATELLITE PLATFORM

Senator Ludlam asked:

- 1) Does this Bill guarantee commercial broadcasters access to the new satellite platform, but leaves it to other services currently on the Aurora platform, such as the publicly-funded narrowcasters National Indigenous Television Network (NITV) and Westlink, to negotiate with the new satellite broadcasting service licensees and or ABC and SBS to gain access?
- 2) If (Q.1) is not the case, how does the Bill deal with access to the new platform for each of the following groups:
 - (a) Publicly-funded narrowcasters currently on the Aurora platform, including NITV and Westlink;
 - (b) Community TV broadcasters; and
 - (c) Publicly funded datacasters
 - (d) The three primary commercial broadcasters?
- 3) How can NITV and the above types of licensed free to air TV services currently on Aurora be confident that:
 - (a) They will be included on the new satellite platform on fair, reasonable and equitable terms if they seek to be and have the capacity to pay;
 - (b) They will be included in the platform Electronic Program Guide (EPG) and conditional access and associated subscriber management system if they seek such access and have the capacity to pay?
- 4) Will the homes that currently access their free to air TV services DTH from the Aurora platform (and hence have DTH access to services such as NITV) be able to access NITV through the same set top box (STB) used to receive the new commercial and national TV services - after they convert to the new free to air TV DTH satellite platform?
- 5) Is it true that the only way for this [the scenario outlined in (4), above] to happen is for NITV, Westlink and any others in a similar situation to purchase new transponder capacity on the new platform?
- 6) How much would such capacity cost and is that capacity available?
- 7) If NITV, Westlink etc have to pay for extra satellite transponder capacity and ancillary services in order to be on the new DTH free to air TV satellite platform:
 - (a) With whom would they contract for the satellite capacity and other services such as multiplexing, uplinking, electronic program guide (EPG) and conditional access and associated subscriber management services provided?
 - (b) What competitive process was used to determine this (or these) 'supplying' entity(ies)?

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- (c) What competitive process was used to determine the supplier of satellite transponder capacity?
- (d) How will the EPG developed for the new satellite platform work and what may be the licensing fees related to any associated software that organisations like NITV will have to pay should they be included in the EPG and conditional access and associated subscriber management services. ?

8) Is it true that if NITV, Westlink etc are not included on the new DTH free to air TV platform that homes will need:

- (a) Two different free to air DTH TV satellite reception systems in their house (ie decoders and in home distribution) for both Aurora and the new platform attached to each TV set and recording device;
- (b) Two separate remote controls; and
- (c) Would have to switch platforms each time viewers wished to move from watching Seven Central to NITV, for example;
- (d) in order to access NITV and the full range of commercial and National free to air TV services (and all of the above questions assume that Aurora and the new satellite platform are on the same satellite and use the same polarity – otherwise even a second satellite dish might be required as well).

9) Is the Government in a position to direct the managing entity of the new free to air TV DTH satellite platform to include a non commercial or National free to air TV service (such as NITV) to have access to the platform, conditional access system and its EPG? Where and how is this 'power' expressed in the Bill? Does the Government have a policy of ensuring such access?

10) What is the Government's intention for services currently delivered to homes DTH via Aurora once the Aurora platform is closed down

Answer:

The primary purpose of the Bill is to amend provisions of the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and the *Copyright Act 1968* to facilitate the delivery of digital television services by satellite. It establishes the legislative framework for the commercial broadcasting digital television services delivered as part of the new satellite service that will deliver the same number of services that are available in metropolitan areas to remote viewers and those located in metropolitan and regional black spots. The Bill does this by creating three new satellite licence areas for the delivery of commercial television channels, and a new class of commercial television licence for the delivery of those services under proposed section 38C. It further determines the range of services that are authorised by the section 38C licences, sets out conditions applying to those licences including the commercial services that are to be provided, and creates obligations on certain commercial broadcasters to contribute channels.

Selection of the platform provider for the satellite service is a commercial matter for the broadcasters who will provide services on the satellite having regard to, amongst other things, satellite capacity and technical requirements. Details of the technical arrangements for the service are being dealt with through funding agreements between the commercial broadcasters delivering the service and the Government.

**Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the
Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Television) Bill 2010**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

The *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* does not provide for the guaranteed access of free to air broadcasters, such as narrowcasters or community television, to the Aurora platform. Similarly, there are no provisions in the Bill relating to access for such parties to the satellite transmission platform. However, there is nothing in the Bill preventing other free to air broadcasters such as narrowcasters or community television from obtaining access to the satellite platform. In addition, it is a condition of the grant deed entered into with commercial broadcasters to deliver the satellite service that the broadcasters must not do anything that would restrict any providers of: national broadcasting services; commercial radio broadcasting services; community broadcasting services; or open narrowcasting broadcasting services from negotiating with the satellite platform provider to achieve access to the satellite service.

Access to satellite capacity for additional broadcasting services, and arrangements relating to the Electronic Program Guides and conditional access systems which are part of the new satellite service, are matters for commercial negotiation with the commercial broadcasters providing the satellite service, and the satellite service provider (Optus Communications Networks Pty Ltd) contracted by those commercial broadcasters for the provision of satellite capacity. Access to the current Aurora platform is similarly a matter for commercial access and to the Department's knowledge the Government does not currently have any direct role in satellite access for services delivered by Aurora.

The existing Aurora platform is expected to continue until at least the end of 2013. The new satellite platform will operate in parallel with Aurora, although the commercial and national broadcasting services available on Aurora will cease operating after switchover (ongoing availability of the Aurora platform itself is a matter for Optus). However, there are a number of differences between the technical configurations of the Aurora service and the new service, and Aurora set top boxes will not be able to be used for the new satellite services. Conversely, a set top box which receives the new satellite service cannot be used to view the Aurora service. If viewers wish to view Aurora specific services they will need to retain the Aurora set top box. However, they will not need to switch platforms to access Seven Central and NITV as both of these services are available – along with remote commercial and national broadcaster services - from the Aurora platform. A single satellite dish is expected to be able to be used for both the new satellite service and Aurora platform services.

The Government is funding the delivery of commercial and national broadcasting services on the new satellite service. This includes the cost of satellite capacity for these services. Any services wishing to transition from Aurora to the new platform will need to enter into their own negotiations for satellite capacity. The cost of this capacity is a matter for these negotiations.

On 16 April 2010 the Government announced that it will continue funding for the National Indigenous Television (NITV) Service with \$15.2 million ensuring its operation for the next 12 months. The Government also announced that it will start a review into its investment in the Indigenous broadcasting and media sector to be coordinated by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. The review will inform considerations of free-to-air carriage of Indigenous television and radio content, including options for the carriage on new digital broadcasting platforms, including the satellite service.