



All correspondence addressed to:
The Chief Executive Officer
506 Herbert Street
BEDOURIE QLD 4829

Telephone: (07) 4746 1202
Facsimile: (07) 4746 1272

✉ admin@diamantina.qld.gov.au
🌐 www.diamantina.qld.gov.au

Diamantina Shire Council

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

BROADCASTING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (DIGITAL DIVIDEND AND OTHER MEASURES) BILL 2011

On behalf of Diamantina Shire Council, I make the following submission to the Senate Enquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011.

Based on our dealings with the Government on the matter of digital television, both as a Council which represents a large portion of rural and regional Australia and as a member of the Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), Council notes the following concerns.

- The overall lack of consultation over the past 12-18 months regarding the digital TV policy and the government's complete lack of awareness of remote area issues.
- The Minister's April 2010 letter inviting existing re-broadcasters to consider alternatives to the VAST system if they chose is contradictory to the lack of time allowed and lack of resources provided by the government to allow effective consideration of terrestrial rebroadcast alternatives.
- The impact to our communities of your imposed deadlines, leaving a minimal four to six weeks to make an important decision (the equipment to enable the use of VAST for the source of commercial TV channels for such a digital self-help facility only became available a month ago in Australia). In contrast to the 15 months the Government took to develop the VAST platform and the various subsidy and other policies and procedures associated with its rollout without any consultation with self help licensees this minimal timeline appears ridicule.
- The government generally has not provided recognition of the social and economic considerations for remote businesses of the changeover.

Council trusts these matters will be taken into consideration.

Yours faithfully

SM
Scott Mason
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
9 March, 2011

FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:
Scott Mason

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE:
LW:086.2011

YOUR REFERENCE:

SUSTAINABLY DEVELOPING THE OUTBACK