

To the Senate Inquiry: re Digital TV change over in Remote Locations of Queensland

I would like to draw the attention of the members of the Inquiry Panel to the following points which have created great angst within Remote Communities in Queensland.

- The lack of adequate consultation with the Local Governments and Communities in Remote areas re this issue over the past 12- 18 months.
- The complete lack of awareness by Federal Government of Remote Area issues.
- Absence of adequate time frame to give an in depth submission.
- The confusion in communities caused through a lack of clear concise options on offer.
- At no time has the Federal Government set aside time to even consider terrestrial re-broadcast alternatives, however existing re-broadcasters were urged to consider alternatives?
- What are the Alternatives?
- Substantial Losses accrued by Local Governments by the forced change over from analogue to digital. Local Governments invested heavily to ensure communities have what is the accepted norm in all other areas.
- No funding provided to assist Local Governments to upgrade their existing facilities.
- Denial of equity of Services to Remote Residents and Businesses
- .Schools and Libraries will also be adversely affected.
- Remote businesses(Hotels and Van Parks) have to bear the cost of this forced change over from analogue to Digital services
- Television Networks have been well compensated for conversion from the obsolete analogue to Digital TV.
- Even with the subsidy Remote area residents will have to pay extra dollars to get digital service.
- No compensation to remote Business operators.
- The Australian Federal Government has demonstrated a lack of concern as to the upgrade of standards for the people of the Remote areas of the Nation as a whole.

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