

Submission to the SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT,
COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS
in relation to Digital Television switchover.

Dear Senators,

I am the secretary of the Body Corporate of a 6 story block of 18 units on the Gold Coast that was built in about 1982. The units on the higher floors receive Digital TV ok while those on the lowest floors do not. We have been advised the problems are because the TV distribution cables in the building are low frequency VHF "air-core" cables that were designed to receive the VHF signals from Brisbane. There is a reasonable picture on most analog channels, from the UHF repeater on Mt Tamborine, but the signal deteriorates for the units lower in the building, and for higher UHF frequency stations. Units on the lowest floors have very unreliable digital TV signals, especially for stations transmitting on the higher frequencies. It will be very difficult and expensive to replace the TV distribution cables, as they are concreted into the floor slabs, and built into the walls. There are no ducts. New cables would probably have to be installed on the outside of the building, and run to TV points in the units. This will be very expensive and unsightly, both for the outside of the building, and for the exposed cables inside the units. There must be many buildings on the Gold Coast with similar problems.

Is there a reasonable solution for these buildings?

Thanks

Ken Fihelly