



Wide screen high definition television on the way

SYDNEY: Twenty-first century television will deliver wide-screen, high definition pictures and high quality multi-channel sound giving viewers in the home cinema quality viewing, according to a report released by the ABA.

'Digital technology will result in fundamental changes to broadcast television,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'The new systems provide incredible flexibility and scope for further enhancement and should provide the perfect vehicle upon which television will be built for the next 50 years.'

Digital television is now being adopted world-wide as the future approach to

television delivery and is expected to be introduced progressively from around the turn of the century.

It opens the way to full integration of satellite, cable and terrestrial television and creates new and exciting possibilities for program producers. This is the promise of the final report, *Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting in Australia* prepared by the Digital Terrestrial Television Specialist Group of the ABA. The report sets out recommendations on the way in which digital television might be introduced into Australia.

'International standards for this future television system have just been completed and the time is right for Australia to start planning for the changes,' said Mr Webb.

Digital television will need to coexist with the present analog system for something like 15 to 20 years, allowing viewers to move up to digital at their own pace when they need to replace their existing analog receivers. It will take several years to establish the new digital transmitters and studio facilities, but consumer receivers are expected to become available overseas as early as 1998.

'We think that many viewers will see the benefits of digital reception and will move to upgrade their receivers fairly quickly when they see the difference,' Mr Webb said.

Copies of the report, *Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting in Australia*, are available from the ABA, price \$10, ph (02) 9334 7700. The text of the report is also on the ABA's Web site:

<http://www.dca.gov.au/aba/hpcov.htm>

Launch of *Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting in Australia* on 30 January 1997 at the ABA, Sydney.

Right: Mr Colin Knowles, ABA General Manager, Planning and Corporate Services Division launching the report. Seated are Mr Tony Branigan, Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations and (right) Mr Peter Webb, ABA chairman.



Below: Mr Webb speaking at the launch.



Community radio application for Fitzroy Crossing, WA

FITZROY CROSSING: The ABA is seeking public comment on an application for a new community radio broadcasting licence in the Fitzroy Crossing area of Western Australia. The ABA has received one application for the Fitzroy Crossing licence, from Wangki Yupurnanupurru Aboriginal Corporation.

'The allocation process for a new community broadcasting licence has begun in Fitzroy Crossing and the ABA is interested in hearing from local people about the application,' said Mr Peter Webb, ABA Chairman. 'We'd particularly like to receive comment about whether the proposed service will meet existing and future community needs and on the applicant's capacity to provide the service.'