



Proposed channels for digital TV and datacasting

in Sydney, Newcastle, Central Coast and Wollongong

The ABA has released proposals for local coverage of digital television retransmission services in the Sydney, Central Coast, Newcastle and Wollongong areas. The ABA has also identified two channels that may be used for datacasting in the combined coverage areas of Sydney and Newcastle.

The proposals are contained in a discussion paper and draft variation to the digital channel plan for Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong.

'The ABA has undertaken ground-breaking work for the extensive use of single frequency networks in its planning. By using a network of transmitters, or repeaters, all using the same frequency or only two frequencies at most, the number of channels existing broadcasters require to transmit their digital television signal is reduced and additional capacity is made available for new services,' said Professor Flint.

'The ABA has struck a bal-

ance between the benefits of freeing up additional spectrum and the need to minimise the number of changes that viewers need to make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital television. The ability of broadcasters to use their existing transmission facilities was another factor taken into consideration by the ABA.'

The ABA proposes to allot channels 29 and 35 for datacasting, on the basis of single frequency networks being implemented between Sydney, Kings Cross, Manly/Mosman, Bouddi, Gosford, Wyong, Newcastle, Merewether and Kotara. Two datacasting channels were identified for the Wollongong area in the original digital channel plan.

Copies

The discussion paper and draft variation to the digital channel plan for Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong is available on the ABA web site www.aba.gov.au or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

in Brisbane, Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast region

The ABA has also released further proposals for digital television services in the Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast region. The ABA has also identified two channels that may be used for other purposes such as datacasting.

The proposals are contained in a discussion paper and draft variation to the digital channel plan for Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

To maximise channel capacity in neighbouring markets, the ABA proposes to remove all digital channels previously allotted to Toowoomba and re-plan the area at the same time digital channel planning is undertaken for Regional Queensland as a whole. Regional broadcasters in the Toowoomba area no longer propose to commence digital transmissions in the early part of 2001. 'This approach will maintain flexibility in regional planning,' said Professor Flint.

The ABA proposes to allot

channels 38 and 50 for datacasting in Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast, on the basis of single frequency networks being implemented between Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Noosa/Tewantin, Nambour and Gympie.

The SFN report, the discussion paper and draft variation to the digital channel plan are on the ABA web site www.aba.gov.au/whats_new/index, or call the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241.

Submissions

The closing date for submissions is **5.00pm, Friday**

18 August 2000

Send submissions to email: digital@aba.gov.au
mail: Draft Digital Channel Plan Variation for Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba, Australian Broadcasting Authority, PO Box 34, BELCONNEN ACT 2616
fax: (02) 6253 3277
Please quote file reference 2000/5307.

