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Channel changes for digital TV in Adelaide

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The ABA is assigning channel 33 to SBS in Adelaide in lieu of channel 30, making channel 30 an unassigned channel that may be made available for other purposes, including datacasting.

'The ABA has changed the SBS digital channel assignment to allow SBS to meet its objective to achieve the same level of coverage and potential reception quality as soon as practicable after the start of the simulcast period,' said Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

'Special conditions have been placed on the technical specifications for digital channels 30, 33 and 36 to avoid potential interference between adjacent channel digital and analog television services in Adelaide.'

An explanatory paper that discusses issues raised in submissions and provides the

reasons for each decision, accompanies the variation to the digital channel plans for the Adelaide region.

The variation

In making its variation, the ABA considered that the low operating power of the community television open narrowcasting service on analog channel 31 may impose severe constraints on the operating power of a digital service on the adjacent channel 30. To avoid adjacent channel interference, the operator of a digital service on channel 30 would need to restrict its operating power to less than 5 kW, or risk causing significant interference to reception of the community television service. Such a restriction would severely limit the ability of SBS to meet its objective to achieve the same level of coverage and potential reception quality as soon as practicable after the start of the simulcast period, the ABA has reassigned unrestricted channel 33 to SBS in lieu of channel 30.

As there is significant variability in the factors that must

Adelaide channel assignments

Analog	SAS	NWS	ADS	ABS	SBS	Unassigned
	7	9	10	2	28	
Digital	6*	8*	11	12	33	30 36

* Channels which depend on analog transmission and reception issues being adequately addressed by the proposed assignee. (See digital channel plan for South Australia Part 1 — Adelaide — October 1999).

be considered in determining a suitable operating power for a digital television service operating on a channel adjacent to an analog service, the ABA is imposing a condition on digital channel 30 requiring that interference shall not be caused to the adjacent channel 31 analog service.

The licence area plan for television broadcasting services in the Riverland assigned UHF channels 30, 33 and 36 to analog services, all of which are co-channelled with Adelaide digital channel allotments. Channel 30 is assigned to the SBS for its Remark/Loxton analog service, which is expected to commence operation during April 2001. To enable the proposed clearance of Band II and channel 5A, channel 33 is assigned to ABRS 3 and channel 36 is

assigned to RTS 5A. The licence area plan for the services in the Riverland states that clearance is required by mid 2006.

Digital planning publications:

The ABA's General Approach to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Planning and the Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Planning Handbook (released together with the first digital channel plans in July 1999) and all digital channel plans and their explanatory papers, including *the Variation to the Digital Channel Plans for SA: Part 1 — Adelaide*, are on the ABA's web site: www.aba.gov.au. Copies can also be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241. All documents are free except the *Handbook*, price \$21.65 (incl. GST).