



# Digital Update

## TEN moves from 8 to 37

In the lead up to the introduction of digital television services, the ABA is meeting the challenges of finding available channels in the crowded broadcasting spectrum. While digital technology allows the ABA to plan for the use of channels that were previously unavailable for analog broadcasting services due to adjacent or co-channel interference, some adjustments to the current assignment of analog television channels has been required.

On 21 August 2000, TEN Victoria commenced a move in La Trobe Valley from channel 8 to channel 37, and channel 6 to channel 54 in

Foster. A one week-long test transmission preceded the full transition of services on 28 August 2000.

The ABA has been working with TEN Victoria to ensure that viewers' have enough information for them to retune their television sets and VCRs. As part of its public information campaign TEN Victoria has:

- delivered a brochure to all affected households; and
- operated a helpline to assist viewers with any retuning or interference problems arising from the channel change.

The three-month simulcast is designed to assist viewers in retuning their television sets to the new channels.

From when testing started to 27 September, TEN Victoria recorded more than two thousand calls to the helpline. The large majority of viewers who contacted the helpline received the assistance they needed to retune televisions and VCRs. Interference to some VCRs in the area had been expected as several types of ancillary devices share the broadcasting spectrum on an opportunistic basis. These devices do not have protection from interference caused by local television signals. (See also 'Digital TV adds more to the picture', *ABA Update*, no. 91, September 2000).

Changes to analog channel assignments are also planned for other areas of Australia (see table).

Broadcasters in these areas are required to ensure a smooth transition of services while providing information and assistance to viewers.

For further information, please contact the ABA on Freecall 1800 810 241 or visit the ABA web site at [www.aba.gov.au](http://www.aba.gov.au).

### Channel changes for television stations:

Area	Service	Moving from	to
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>			
Weston Creek/Woden	Southern Cross (CTC)	10	52
<b>New South Wales</b>			
Merewether	ABC (ABHN)	35	50
Stanwell Park	SBS	30	48
Wollongong (Brokers Nose)	ABC (ABWN)	35	30
<b>Victoria</b>			
Ballarat	WIN (VTV)	6	36
Ballarat	ABC (ABRV)	11	42
Bendigo	Southern Cross (BCV)	Provide an alternative service on channel 38 to run simultaneously with channel 8	
<b>Queensland</b>			
Gympie Town	SBS	50	44
Tweed Heads	SBS	62	28
<b>South Australia</b>			
Cowell or Port Neill	ABC (ABNS)	Either an increase in power for channel 6 in Cowell or additional service in Port Neill on channel 56	
Cowell or Port Neill	Spencer Gulf Telecasters (GTS)	Either an increase in power for channel 8 in Cowell or additional service in Port Neill on channel 59	
<b>Western Australia</b>			
Wagin	Prime/GWN (SSW)	6	55
<b>Tasmania</b>			
Bicheno	WIN (TVT)	8	51
Bicheno	ABC (ABT)	10	54
King Island	WIN (TVT)	Either an increase power for channel 6 or move from channel 6 to 53	
King Island	Southern Cross (TNT)	Either an increase in power for channel 8 or move from 8 to 56	
King Island	ABC (ABKT)	Either an increase in power for channel 11 or move from 11 to 68	
Launceston	Southern Cross (TNT)	11	59
Taroona	WIN (TVT)	8	40