



The ABA has released the digital channel plan for the Perth television market. All digital channel plans are now available for metropolitan broadcasters who will start digital transmissions from 1 January 2001.

## ABA releases digital channel plan for Perth

The ABA has released the digital channel plan for the Perth television market. The plan sets out the channels existing broadcasters will use for their digital transmissions from 1 January 2001.

'The ABA has developed these digital channel plans with the interests of viewers foremost in mind,' said Professor Flint. 'The ABA has sought to minimise the number of changes that viewers will have to make to their existing reception equipment

to receive digital broadcasts. By the same token, the ABA has sought to reduce costs to broadcasters by maximising their ability to use their existing transmission facilities.'

Plans for several other metropolitan markets and those regional areas commencing digital transmissions on 1 January 2001 — Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Brisbane, Toowoomba and Darwin — were finalised in July 1999. In October 1999, the digital channel plans for Adelaide, Canberra, Melbourne and Hobart

were finalised. Release of the Perth plan was delayed due to concerns about the use of VHF channel 11 for digital television in Perth, a channel currently operating in a neighbouring market.

'Before it finalised this plan, the ABA wished to assure itself that appropriate arrangements were being put in place to deal with interference and compensation issues relating to the transmission and reception of analog services in adjacent markets,' said Professor Flint.

The Golden West Network (GWN) channel 11 analog service covering the Central Agricultural region to the east of Perth will move to UHF channel 50 to avoid interference from the Perth digital channel 11 service to be operated by Network Ten. Until the GWN service is removed, to prevent interference Network Ten must restrict the power transmitted by its digital service towards the east.

'We are continuing to work with broadcasters on the development of a code of practice regarding digital interference to analog changes', said Professor Flint. 'The code will specify the minimum level of assistance that broadcasters will be required to give to consumers affected by analog changes, such as that necessary for the Central Agricultural region.'

### Analog and digital channel assignments

Perth	ABW	TVW	STW	NEW	SBS	CTV	Unassigned
Analog	2	7	9	10	28	31	
Digital	12	6	8	11	29	*	32, 35, 38

• The Digital Conversion Act states that the digital transmission of community television services currently operating on the sixth analog channel will be in spectrum allocated for use for the provision of datacasting services.

### Analog channel changes—summary

Market	Affected area	Analog channel assignments				Notes
Perth	Central	SSW				Finalisation awaiting outcome of negotiations between affected broadcasters
	Agricultural (Mawson)	Existing	11			
		New	To be determined			
	Wagin	SSW      ABW				Channels for additional local area transmitters, if required
		Existing	6	8		
		New	55	58		

All digital channel plans, *The ABA's General Approach to Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Planning* and the *Handbook* are available on the ABA's web site, <[www.aba.gov.au](http://www.aba.gov.au)>. For printed copies, call the ABA on Freecall 1 800 810 241 price \$20 for the *Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Planning Handbook*, all other documents are free.