



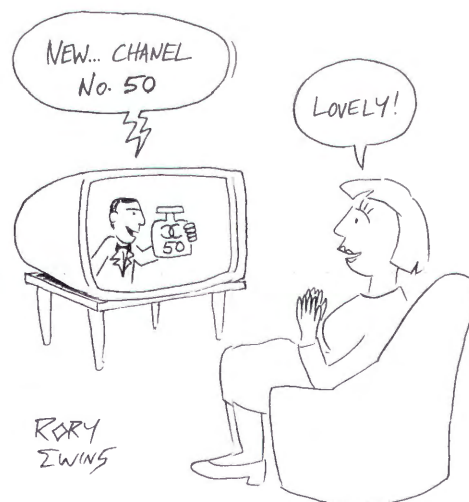
## ABA proposes TV channel move in regional WA

The ABA is proposing to move the Golden West Network television service in the Central Agricultural Area of Western Australia from VHF channel 11 to UHF channel 50.

The move is required to accommodate the use of channel 11 for the Network Ten digital television service in Perth. Digital television services in Perth and other metropolitan areas are to commence on 1 January 2001.

The ABA's proposal is contained in a discussion paper and draft variations to the licence area plan and frequency allotment plan for television services in Remote and Regional Western Australia released for comment.

'In finalising the Perth digital channel 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 David Flint, ABA Chairman.



GWN is working towards having the channel 50 analog service, which operates under the call sign SSW, on air by 1 August 2000, with simulcasting on both channels 11 and 50 to continue for six months, i.e. to 31 January 2001. GWN plans to conduct an education campaign, informing viewers of the change to the Central Agricultural channel 11 service from VHF to UHF and assisting with remedial action, where required.

The Central Agricultural coverage area includes the following towns and centres: Beverley, Brookton, Corrigin, Cunderdin, Dowerin, Goomalling, Kellerberrin, Pingelly, Quairading, Tammin, Wyalkatchem and York.

## Central Agricultural Area

There was public consultation on the change proposed in the draft licence area plan, which was one of the options canvassed in the draft digital channel plan, when comments on the draft digital channel plan were sought. The need for this change was also indicated when the Perth digital channel plan was finalised, although the most appropriate solution to resolving the interference to SSW 11 had not been determined. The ABA is therefore seeking comment on the proposed variation to the licence area plan specifically from television broadcasters, the West Australian Government and major industry bodies.

## Code of practice

The ABA is working with broadcasters to develop a code of practice regarding digital interference to analog changes. The code will specify what assistance digital broadcasters will be required to give to analog broadcasters and consumers affected by analog changes, such as that necessary for the Central Agricultural region.

Before finalising the details of this code, it will be released for public comment.

### For copies:

The discussion paper and draft variations of the licence area plan and frequency allotment plan for television services in Remote and Regional Western Australia are available on the ABA's web site at [www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan.licence\\_area\\_plan.htm](http://www.aba.gov.au/what/broplan.licence_area_plan.htm).

The Perth digital channel plan is also available on the ABA's web site.

Copies can also be obtained from the ABA by calling Freecall 1800 810 241. All documents are free of charge.

Closing date for comments was 2 June 2000.