

# Digital news

## Changing channels: Newcastle and Wollongong national TV services

As the planning for digital television progresses, the ABA is working with broadcasters to accommodate the need for both analog and digital television channels during the eight-year simulcast period. This means that the ABA must plan for the use of additional channels and make some adjustments to existing channels to avoid interference.

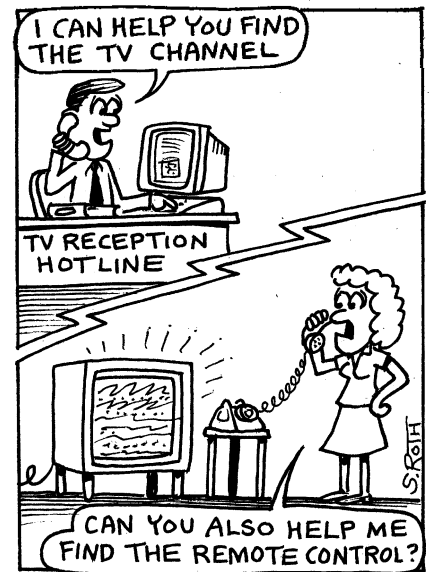
By the end of June, ABC analog television services operating on channel 35 in Merewether (NSW) and Brokers Nose (NSW) will have moved channels in order to provide room for the planned digital television services in Sydney and Newcastle. The change in channels was necessary as the new high power digital television services will use channel 35, which has the potential to cause major co-channel interference to the reception of ABC channel 35 services in Merewether and Brokers Nose.

To accommodate the change to ABC television services in Brokers Nose, the SBS analog television service in Stanwell Park was also required to change channels.

The ABC has already begun simulcasting on both the current and new channels in the affected areas to allow audiences enough time to retune their television sets and video recorders. By 30 June 2001, the ABC will have made the permanent transition to the new analog television channels, switching off transmissions on the old channel 35.

Any disruption to viewers should be minimal and the antennas currently used to receive these television services in these areas are still suitable for reception of the new services on channel 30 (Brokers Nose), channel 48 (Stanwell Park) and channel 50 (Merewether).

The ABC and SBS have commenced a public information campaign about the channel move with advertisements in print and on television. They are also sending leaflets to the households in affected areas to advise viewers that they need to retune their receivers. The ABC and SBS are providing additional assistance via an information hotline where viewers can contact the broadcasters if interference problems arise.



	Old channel	New channel	New channel start date
SBS Stanwell Park	30	48	11 May 2001
ABC Wollongong (Brokers Nose)	35	30	17 May 2001
ABC Newcastle (Merewether)	35	50	8 June 2001

### For more information

For more information on changes to analog television services in Newcastle and Wollongong call:

- ABC Reception Hotline (TBA by ABC by 22 May)
- ABA Freecall 1800 226 667 or visit the ABA web site at [www.aba.gov.au](http://www.aba.gov.au).

### C and P programs

Programs granted C and P classification between 24 April and 21 May 2001. Producers interested in submitting programs for classification should contact the ABA's Children's Television section on (02) 9334 7700.

Program title	Origin	Class.	New/renewal	Decision dated	Applicant
BIG ARVO, THE (SERIES 3 & 4)	Australia	C	new	8-5-01	Seven Network Ltd
BOOK PLACE, THE (SERIES 7)	Australia	P	new	18-5-01	Seven Network Ltd
ESCAPE OF THE ARTFUL					
DODGER	Australia	CD	new	11-5-01	The Producers Group
HI-5 (SERIES 3)	Australia	P	new	24-4-01	Kids Like Us

C - children's program, CD - C Australian drama, P - preschool, Class. - Classification