



ABA proposes channels for digital television repeater services

Inland NSW, regional Qld and Tasmania

The Australian Broadcasting Authority has released proposals to allot and assign digital channels for television repeater services at 16 locations in New South Wales, regional Queensland and Tasmania. The ABA has also identified as yet unassigned channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.

The proposals are contained in discussion papers and draft variations to the relevant digital channel plans, released in April. A table listing the specific location of each service follows.

The ABA also released a draft variation to the NSW: Part 1 – Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Central Coast digital channel plan to vary the channel allotments for digital repeater services at Wollongong (Brokers Nose) to enable broadcasters to operate in a multi-frequency network.

“In releasing these proposals, the ABA weighed up a number of important factors. These include the aim of spectrum efficiency, the need to minimise any changes that viewers will have to make to their existing reception equipment to receive digital broadcasts and the desirability of broadcasters being able to use their existing infrastructure to broadcast their digital television services,” said

Professor David Flint, ABA Chairman.

“The ABA has at all times given the interests of viewers a high priority. However, a proposal relating to the allotment of digital channels in Bathurst, NSW will require a change to the CBN analog service. Fortunately, only relatively minor disruption to viewers is expected. They may need to retune their television sets and VCRs to minimise any degradation in picture quality,” said Professor Flint. “Public information, education campaigns and telephone hotlines will be established to deal with and provide timely advice on how to retune devices before any changes take place.”

The discussion papers and draft variations to Digital Channel Plans for NSW: Part 1 – Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and Central Coast, NSW: Part 5 – Inland NSW, Queensland: Part 2 – Regional Qld and Tasmania are available on the ABA website, <http://www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/index.htm> or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.

Conversion to digital services

Schedule 4 to the *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* (the Act) sets out arrangements for the

conversion, over time, of the transmission of television broadcasting services from analog mode to digital mode. Under the arrangements, the ABA is required to formulate two schemes for conversion – a commercial television conversion scheme, and a national television conversion scheme.

The ABA formulated the CTC Scheme in March 1999. The Scheme commenced on 9 June 1999. The ABA varied the CTC

Scheme on 21 December 2000. The ABA formulated the NTC Scheme in December 1999. It was approved by the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts on 2 February 2000, and commenced on that date. The Minister approved a variation to this Scheme on 20 December 2000.

The ABA varied the CTC Scheme in January 2003, to provide for Part B – Remote Licence Areas.



Locations for digital TV repeater services

Location	Site
New South Wales	
Bathurst	Mt Panorama
Bowral/Mittagong	Mt Gibraltar
Goulburn	Mt Gray
Lithgow	Reservoir Hill
Lithgow East	Morts Estate
Portland/Wallerawang	Garlands Hill
Regional Queensland	
Blackwater	Cutlers Hill
Boyne Island	Reservoir
Capella	Mt Lowe
Emerald	UHF TV site
Gladstone East	Maunalor Hill
Gladstone West	Round Hill
Townsville North	Yarrowonga
Tasmania	
Hobart NE Suburbs	Government Hills, Risdon
Launceston	Juliana Street, West Launceston
Taroona	White Rock Point