



Digital TV channel plans released

for national services in Mt Isa, Alice Springs, Katherine, Karratha and Roebourne

The ABA has determined the channels the existing national television broadcasters will use for their digital transmissions in Mt Isa, Queensland; Alice Springs and Katherine, Northern Territory; and Roebourne and Karratha, Western Australia.

The channels are outlined in the national digital television channel plans for Mount Isa, Alice Springs and Katherine in the Remote Central and Eastern Australia area and a variation to the national television digital channel plans for Western Australia: Part 2 – Remote and Regional.

An explanatory paper, which discusses issues raised in submissions and explains the reasons for each decision, accompanies the national digital channel plans.

In finalising these plans, 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

transmission facilities to broadcast their digital television services,' said Professor Flint.

The ABA does not propose to finalise the digital channel plans for the commercial broadcasting services in Western Australia: *Part 2 – Remote and Regional and Remote Central and Eastern Australia* at this time, as there are a number of outstanding matters relating to these plans.

The accompanying table summarising the assignment of national television channels for the conversion of national television services from analog to digital mode.

Conversion schemes

Schedule 4 to the Broadcasting Services 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 formulated two schemes for conversion: a commercial television conversion scheme, and a national television conversion scheme. The national television conversion scheme was approved by the

Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts on 2 February 2000, and commenced on that date.

A digital assignment for the

SBS in Roebourne has not been assigned in the digital channel plan as the Shire of Roebourne operates an SBS analog retransmission service.

Locations of digital television repeater services

Channel assignments		
Roebourne	ABRW	
Analog	9	
Digital	9A	
Karratha	ABW	SBS
Analog	54	66
Digital	53	65
Mount Isa	ABIQ	SBS
Analog	6	29
Digital	7	9A
Alice Springs	ABAD	SBS
Analog	7	28
Digital	8	6
Katherine	ABKD	SBS
Analog	7	58
Digital	8	6

For copies

The digital television channel plans and accompanying explanatory papers for Western Australia: Part 2 – Remote and Regional and Remote Central and Eastern Australia are available on the ABA's web site at www.aba.gov.au/tv/digitaltv/planning/index.htm.

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