

Channels determined for digital repeater services in regional South Australia

ACMA has released a variation to the digital channel plans for Regional South Australia to include channels for digital television repeater services in the Riverland, Spencer Gulf and South East regions of South Australia.

The locations are Lameroo, Pinnaroo and Waikerie in the Riverland region; Burra, Clare, Coffin Bay, Cowell, Port Lincoln, Quorn and Tumby Bay in the Spencer Gulf region; and Bordertown, Keith, Kingston SE/Robe and Naracoorte in the Mt Gambier/South East region.

The plans set out the channels the existing commercial and national television broadcasters will use for their digital transmissions. ACMA has also identified as yet unassigned

channels that may be used for other purposes, including datacasting.

‘In finalising these plans ACMA 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 Ms Maddock.

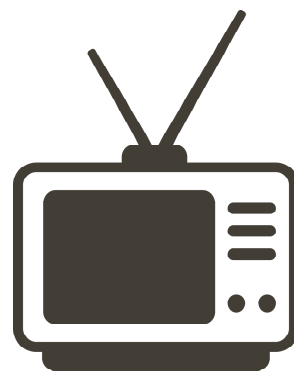
‘Fortunately, most viewers will be unaffected by the introduction of these services. For viewers in Keith and Coffin Bay only relatively minor disruption is expected as, in

most cases, retuning of television sets and VCRs will be all that will be required,’ she said.

‘Public information and education campaigns will be established by broadcasters to deal with and provide timely advice on how to retune devices before any changes take place.’

An explanatory paper, which discusses issues raised in submissions, and the variation to the digital channels plans is available on ACMA’s website, www.acma.gov.au (and go to Latest > Draft documents > Broadcasting > Draft Licence area plans (LAPs)).

Copies can also be obtained by contacting ACMA on telephone 1800 810 241.



Community radio service for Bicheno, Tasmania

ACMA has decided to make FM channel capacity available to provide community radio to the Bicheno region of Tasmania.

‘The decision to make a channel available for community radio will add a

local voice to broadcasting in Bicheno,’ said Ms Maddock.

ACMA has made channel capacity available for the community radio service 7BOD Break O’Day at Bicheno on frequency 98.5 MHz at a maximum ERP of 200 watts.

The decision is contained in a variation to the Scottsdale radio licence area plan.

Bicheno is located on the eastern sea board of Tasmania and is a remote locality surrounded by rugged terrain located approximately 36 km to the south south-east of St Marys in the Break O’Day RA1 licence area.

The township of Bicheno has

limited radio services, with only two national services, 7ABCRR and 7ABCNR, available and no localised radio broadcasting services. The national services are low powered and provide coverage to the township of Bicheno only.

In June 2004, a variation to the Scottsdale radio licence area plan included an extension of the Break O’Day community radio licence area to include the towns of Bicheno and Coles Bay.

The variation to the Scottsdale radio licence area plan is available from the ACMA or by calling Freecall 1800 810 241.