Commercial digital television services switch on in Alice Springs and Mt Isa

Commercial terrestrial digital television services began in Alice Springs and Mt Isa earlier this month when licensees met the 2 May starting date set by the ACMA.

The licensees started transmitting their analog service in standard definition digital mode in each of the television licence areas of remote central and eastern Australia TV1, TV2 and Mt Isa TV1.

A third, digital-only commercial television broadcasting service in remote central and eastern Australia also began broadcasting on 2 May 2011. This service is being provided by Central Digital Television Pty Ltd—a joint venture company formed by Imparja Television Pty Ltd and Regional Television Pty Ltd, the existing commercial television broadcasting licensees for these areas.

The digital services will initially be transmitted in Alice Springs and Mt Isa on the following channels:

	Alice Springs	Mt Isa
Imparja Telvision	UHF 30	UHF 39
Central Digital Television	UHF 40	UHF 41
Southern Cross Television	UHF 38	UHF 37

The commercial broadcasters are providing the full suite of digital services available in capital cities.

Viewers who have been watching the ABC and SBS using a digital TV or set-top box may need to retune their device to receive the new commercial channels. Retuning of digital services is usually done through the menu of a digital television or set-top box. More information on retuning is available at www.acma.gov.au/digitaltv.

The rollout of the remaining 26 simulcast terrestrial digital sites across remote central and eastern Australia will follow implementation plans broadcasters submit to the ACMA for approval.

The full suite of digital channels is also available now to viewers in all of remote central and eastern Australia via satellite on the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service. &

