

10 August 2007



The General Manager
Digital Broadcasting
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir

RE: Digital Conversion of Self-Help Television Retransmission Sites – Discussion Paper – Additional Comments

I refer to our correspondence sent via email yesterday with regard to the above matter. Technical advice was subsequently received this morning which now enables me to provide comment to the three questions as put forward in your discussion paper.

I would appreciate if you could please note the comments below in conjunction with the original correspondence forwarded to your office yesterday.

- ***The use of individual digital transmitters for each service versus the use of multiplexers.***
The use of Multiplexing equipment as opposed to individual transmitters is not a good option. The main problem is if the Multiplexer fails you will be left with no TV transmission at all for the period of repair time. If the unit has to be sent away for repair the time taken for these repairs will not be acceptable. Experience dictates that the use of individual receivers & transmitters is the best option. If for instance a receiver or transmitter fails you will only lose 1 out of 5 services for period of repair, which the people receiving services tend find acceptable.
- ***DTH option for viewers in remote areas rather than conversion of existing self-help transmission sites from analogue to digital.***
Direct to home satellite equipment is not favoured because if the viewers concerned are already receiving all 5 channels in analogue they will not accept anything less. The satellite services do not deliver the same and have no local content i.e. local news, local weather & program timing is not in line with terrestrial services. Also, as noted in the article, only Western Australia residents receive WIN & GWN. It should be noted that a household with 2 or more TVs will require installation of a Satellite Decoder on each TV.

- **Timing of digital conversion of self-help transmission sites**

The timing of implementation of Digital services should occur as soon as possible. Preferably all services should be commissioned at the same time where feasible. Our advice indicates that services are slow and ad hoc in their installation. For example ABC & SBS are transmitting in digital as from last week with Prime is to come around February 2008, however WIN & CAPITOL are yet to set a date. It may be more efficient if services hold off until all are ready to install and commission at the same time. Although I recognise that this may not be practical in all cases.

I thank your department for the opportunity to comment on this matter and look forward to the outcomes that arise from this discussion paper.

Yours faithfully



Ken Murphy
General Manager