



The Flinders Ranges Council

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B1/p

The General Manager,
Digital Broadcasting,
Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts,
G.P.O. Box 2154,
CANBERRA. A.C.T. 2601

Dear Sir / Madam,

Self Help Television Digital Conversion

I refer to the Discussions Paper dated June 2007.

Based on the population and area served by the Quorn retransmission facility (Site number 110) should be a site for the installation of individual digital transmitters with the cost of the conversion being met by the Australian Government. Council would continue to meet the cost of operation and maintenance although maintenance is difficult to undertake due to the location of the Quorn transmitter relative to technical services ex Adelaide.

Regarding the service provider from the Hawker retransmission facility, REM C and E Site number 111, the viewing audience is small and cost could be the determinate between converting to digital transmission and the use of direct to home (DTH) technology. Migration to DTH technology would result in a reduction in service availability as acknowledged in the Paper.

Whatever technology is selected to retransmit or receive digital television the cost of conversion should be met by the Australian Government. The Australian Government provided services on the basis of equity and access to television services in areas where broadcasters determined viewing numbers and market size did not support own – effort service delivery. It is doubted that the economic argument has changed and without Australian Government funding support self help television retransmission sites will cease to provide services to remote rural communities.

Yours faithfully,

Lee Connors,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.