



GREAT LAKES COUNCIL

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

Contact: Mr Keith O'Leary
Telephone: 6591 7222

1st August 2007

Dear Sir

Re: Digital Conversion of Self-Help Television Retransmission Sites

Thank you for providing Council with the opportunity to lodge a submission in relation to the proposal for the digital conversion of self-help retransmission sites.

As you are aware, Council has five sites which were established under the Federal Government's Television Black Spots Program. These sites are as follows:-

- Forster
- Elizabeth Beach
- Smiths Lake
- Booral, and
- Stroud.

Whilst Council was reluctant to be involved in this program, as it is not something that local government is traditionally involved in, Council felt it had no option if its residents were to receive improved television reception. Council has also been concerned at the ongoing maintenance costs implications on its ratepayers and particularly how the future conversion to digital could be funded (as this is clearly beyond the capacity of Council and its ratepayers).

As all areas covered by Council's five retransmission sites are available for digital reception, Council would certainly like to see the conversion of sites as soon as possible. This would certainly be appreciated by the significant number of people who are serviced by the five sites mentioned.

It is difficult for me to comment on the technical aspects associated with the most suitable conversion method as Council does not have such technical expertise available without seeking such advice on a contractual basis. This can certainly be obtained however if required in the future.

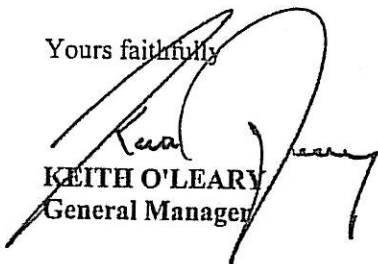
Council would also prefer that it did not have ownership of the retransmission equipment or maintenance responsibilities (as this is an area which is not a usual local government responsibility, or one in which Council has the necessary level of expertise, without contracting it out of course). Council however did resolve to assume this responsibility prior to the establishment of the five Television Black Spots sites as there was no option if its residents were to receive improved television reception. In view of this, Council will also facilitate the conversion to digital of all five sites if there is no other option.

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Visit Council at <http://www.greatlakes.nsw.gov.au>

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information in this regard.

Yours faithfully



KEITH O'LEARY
General Manager