

Submission 4 - Hempstead  
8 July 2007

**BACKGROUND** to our comments

1. Magnetic Island has two retransmission sites, one at Horseshoe Bay and one at Nelly Bay. They were established by the Magnetic Island Community Development Association then handed to Townsville City Council for their long-term operation.
2. The population (residents and tourists staying overnight) of Magnetic Island is set to grow over the next decade, This growth will occur in both areas services by the current retransmission sites.

Our Comments on the issues ( page 7)

Individual digital transmitters vs multiplexers

Based on the information in the discussion paper - both sites on Magnetic Island would be much more suited to the apparently more robust individual units than multiplexers.

(a) as an Island there is a high degree of salt in the atmosphere - and one unit (though in a sealed room) is right on the seafront, and the other is at the top of a hill - and quite exposed to the weather - especially in extreme conditions.

(b) the paper indicates that multiplexers are somewhat more likely to need ongoing technical attention. Our Nelly Bay location is adjacent to both the passenger and vehicle ferry terminals - making technical access (other than the time taken to get here) easy. However, the Horseshoe Bay site is within the National Park and is considerably more inconvenient to (both in terms of access and time) to reach.

While the cost of individual units seems to be initially higher - the greater reliability outweighs the greater initial costs.

In terms of other options - we would need to discuss with the TV stations technical managers whether or not digital signals from the mainland site which serves Townsville are sufficient to cover either or both of the physical areas covered by the current service. At this point the question has not been posed.

Comments on the Issues (Page 8)

As our sites will each service more than 500 residents - we choose not to comment

Comments on the Issues (Page 9)

Timing - It would be terrific if we could stay in step with the digital conversions on the nearby mainland, and not lag too far behind.

Thank you  
Lorna

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