



LatrobeCity

a new energy

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10 August, 2007

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

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBMISSION - DIGITAL CONVERSION OF SELF HELP TELEVISION RETRANSMISSION SITES

On behalf of Latrobe City Council I submit this submission to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts in response to the discussion paper concerning the digital conversion of self-help television retransmission sites.

Background

Latrobe City is the licensed operator of two analogue television retransmission sites located at Boolarra and Jeeralang/Yinnar South in Gippsland, Victoria.

The establishment of these two retransmission services were funded by DCITA under the Television Black Spots Program in August 2002 and February 2003 respectfully.

The Boolarra site services a small rural township and the Jeeralang/Yinnar South services a rural bushland area at the base and on the slopes of the Strezlecki Ranges.

Submission

The analogue equipment currently at the above sites, receives and retransmits a total of five (5) individual television services.

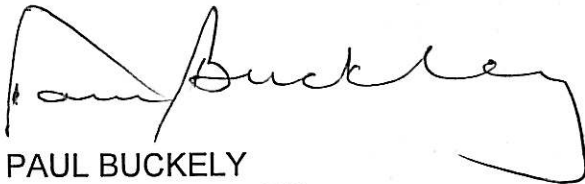
Preliminary technical advice gained by Council indicates that digital retransmission from the two sites will require the installation of individual digital receivers for each television service (five per site) and a multiplexing transmitter at each site. It is Council's understanding that the technical demands of a digital service can be supported by a local supplier, however the higher complexity of the service will result in a corresponding increase in the complexity and quality of the equipment and on-going operational maintenance costs.

In addition to the conversion of respective transmitter and decoders, it is anticipated that upgraded antennas and associated components will be required at both sites and a larger site facility to house upgraded equipment will be required at one of the sites.

A detailed cost analysis for the conversion to a digital service, upgraded site facilities and increased operational resources for the two existing sites have not been undertaken. However, based upon the indicative figures provided by DCITA in the discussion paper, it is expected that Council would review its continuing commitment for the provision of two self-help television retransmission facilities unless funding for installation and ongoing operation of the digital equipment and site facilities was made available from government or other sources.

Council looks forward to further discussions in regards to this matter. If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact Henry Morrison, Coordinator Property & Statutory Services, on 03 5128 5641 at your convenience.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Buckely". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

PAUL BUCKELY
Chief Executive Officer