



Please quote:

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8th July 2007

B11/8
The General Manager
Digital Broadcasting
Department of Communications, Information
Technology and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear General Manager

The Barossa Council has been successful in recent years in obtaining funding from the Australian Government's \$35 million *Television Black Spots Program* to install analogue terrestrial retransmission equipment at Angaston and Lyndoch.

The equipment has facilitated the retransmission of analogue services from television stations in Adelaide, resulting in increased television coverage and improved reception for many hundreds of households in the Angaston and Lyndoch areas of the Barossa region.

However, many residents are still experiencing reception problems, especially with Channel 9 in Angaston and Channel 2 in Lyndoch. Given The Barossa Council assisted in the procurement of the analogue retransmission equipment at Angaston and Lyndoch, residents with reception problems call The Barossa Council seeking solutions.

Residents of Angaston and Lyndoch have also sought Council's assistance to work towards obtaining retransmission of digital television services. The cost of retransmitting digital services to individual sites within the Barossa region is well beyond the scope of The Barossa Council alone.

Council will require significant Australian Government assistance to ensure that Angaston and Lyndoch residents gain access to digital television services in the future. Council has recently informed Angaston and Lyndoch residents that they presently only have access to analogue services from Adelaide and that purchase of high definition television sets will not provide them with access to digital television services. Unfortunately, some residents have recently purchased high definition television sets under the assumption that they will be able to view digital television services. Council has also informed residents that it continues to liaise with the Australian Government, through the Federal Member for Barker, The Hon Patrick Secker, on this matter.

The Barossa Council wishes to register its strong desire to have the analogue terrestrial self-help retransmission sites at Angaston and Lyndoch converted to digital retransmission using digital transmitters. Additionally, it would be appropriate for further investigations to be undertaken to assess the need and feasibility of retransmitting any future digital services from the Angaston retransmission site to include the township of Nuriootpa.

If you require any further information on this issue, please liaise with Council's Director of Works and Engineering, Michael Lange, on 08 863 8475.

Yours sincerely



DAVID MORCOM
Chief Executive Officer