

**DARBY'S FALLS PROGRESS ASSOCIATION AND**  
**URBAN LAND CARE GROUP INC.**  
MAIN ST. DARBY'S FALLS N.S.W. 2793

Atten. Trish Barnes  
The General Manager  
Digital Broadcasting  
Dept. of Communication IT and the Arts  
G.P.O.Box 2154 Canberra A.C.T. 2601

Dear Miss Barnes,  
Re. Discussion Paper

We would make suggestions as set out below outlining very relevant factors which should included in the paper which relate to problems of self help retransmission sites.

As the original co-ordinator for this site and designer and supervisor for its construction I would point the many shortcomings.

The initial testing for signal was to say the least fallible. There was no testing for transmission direction or strength for our site by the D.C.I.T.A. or the A.B.A. Consequently an expected transmission covering a 360-degree direction for a distance of fifteen kilometers was never obtained. A final transmission signal operated in one direction only for a maximum of fifteen kilometers even though all units were operating at full power.

This most disappointing factor gave only thirty-two residents coverage from an estimated one hundred and ten homes. The operating costs averaging two thousand five hundred dollars annually is a great strain on the community for what is available to others as free to air television.

Discussing operating costs and transmission strengths with co-ordinators at similar sights in the immediate area these facts are apparently very similar.

Therefore black spots retransmission sights could not possibly mount the suggested costs for the change over to digital broadcasting.

Should the D.C.I.T.A. fund the change over there certainly would need to be an upgrading of power a complete change in design from the poorly supplied under powered equipment supplied previously.

Multiplexing would be detrimental to the operation as if the unit has technical difficulties all channels would be lost.

D.T.H. Satellite reception would definitely be unpopular in this area, as local input is what our residents look for. This area has also grown with some twenty or more homes built in the area who receive no free to air signal.

Considerable thought must go into this paper from the actual retransmission site operators over the suggestions put forward by suppliers of channel converters as these operators have pecuniary interests.



Rex Cook Co-ordinator