

Digital Switchover Legislation Discussion Paper

Submission 2

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| 2. Timing: switchover dates should be able to be brought back as well as put forward. |
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Community funded translators

Community funding usually comes from local councils/shire rates.

Translators are used to cover areas where the terrain prevents an adequate signal being received in that small restricted area.

Translator is a TV receiver tuned to the main transmitter for that coverage area. Its output signal is fed into a low powered transmitter on another channel.

Metropolitan examples.

Brisbane: Kooralbyn, Maroon, Mount Alford, Rathdowney, Toogoolawah

Sydney: Woronora and (Patonga is better fed from Bouddi as it is part of the Central Coast)

Melbourne: Anglesea & Airey's Inlet, Gisborne, Healesville, Lorne, Monbulk, Newtown (Geelong), Wye River

Adelaide: Golden Grove, Myponga, Peterhead

Outer Adelaide: Angaston, Cape Jervis, Carrickalinga, Cudlee Creek, Gumeracha, Normaville, Yankalilla

Perth: Lancelin, Maryville, Perth East, Seabird.

Cost is obviously of prime importance to the councils for the digital change over.

To minimise the cost an investigation of the practicality of the following;

- Change the receiver's channel in the translator to the network's digital signal
- Assess the received signal quality, which must have very low errors
- Connect the IF output of the professional receiver to the IF input to the transmitter.
- Adjust the power level if required
- Assess the quality of the digital signal being radiated by the translator.
- The implications on Digital Licence Area Plans would now need to be assessed in the light of an instantaneous switch to digital on the channel previously used for analog.

This is the role of the ACMA's National Licensing and Allocation section.

The major advantage of this technique is that no equipment needs to be purchased. The disadvantage is that all viewers will need to buy their Set Top Box or digital TV prior to the switchover date. This disadvantage is ameliorated by the fact that STBs are around \$50.

This allows all transmitters in a Metropolitan coverage area to be digital on the same date.

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