



Australian Government

Digital Switchover Taskforce



Switching to digital TV

Information for households in Jeeralang/Yinnar South & Boolarra

Victoria is switching to digital TV

As part of the switchover to digital TV in regional Victoria, broadcasters will be introducing new digital TV channels for residents in the Jeeralang/Yinnar South and Boolarra areas. These new channels are planned to be on the air in February 2011. This will mean all of the digital free-to-air TV channels will be available for the first time in the region.

Early switchover for Jeeralang/Yinnar South & Boolarra

Residents in the Jeeralang/Yinnar South and Boolarra regions will be switching to free-to-air digital TV earlier than other parts of regional Victoria. This is happening because the equipment at your local TV transmitter needs to be replaced. To install the new equipment the analog TV transmitter in your local area will be switched off. When the new equipment has been installed and switched on, you will receive digital-only TV. This process is usually completed on the same day.

The transmitter that provides TV services to residents in the **Jeeralang** and **Yinnar South** area is being switched to digital-only transmissions by the broadcasters on **9 February 2011**. Viewers who receive their TV from this site will need to be ready for digital-only TV prior to or on **9 February 2011** to continue to watch free-to-air TV channels.

The transmitter that provides TV services to residents in the **Boolarra** area is being switched to digital-only transmission on **11 February 2011**. Viewers in the **Boolarra** area will need to be ready prior to or on **11 February 2011**.

To keep receiving free-to-air commercial TV, viewers in Jeeralang/Yinnar South and Boolarra will need a television that is capable of receiving the digital TV signals. You do not have to buy a new TV as you can convert your existing analog TV by connecting a set top box or a digital TV recorder. If you decide to buy a new TV make sure it has a built-in digital tuner.

All of the digital TV channels provided by the ABC, SBS, Prime, (7TWO, 7mate), Southern Cross (OneHD, Eleven) and WIN (Gem, GO!) will be available in digital in February.

January 2011

Get ready now for digital TV

You can get ready for digital TV by connecting a set top box or a digital TV recorder to your existing analog TV. Or, you can get a TV with a digital tuner built-in. If you can already watch digital TV, such as ABC2 and ABC3, you may be receiving it from an alternative site (such as Churchill) in the area and you have already converted to digital TV so no further action is required.

The new digital channels will be broadcast in standard definition (SD) and high definition (HD). You will need a high definition set top box, digital TV recorder or TV set to receive both SD and HD channels. For example, ABC News 24, ONE HD, 7mate and GEM are all broadcast in HD.

A Digital Advisor in a retail store can help with advice on the right equipment to get ready for digital TV. You can find your nearest Digital Advisor by calling the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 or at www.digitalready.gov.au

A coverage prediction tool, mySwitch, is also available on the www.digitalready.gov.au website that will assist you with anticipating the level of digital television coverage at your location, provide technical information about the new transmitters and other transmitters that provide digital TV coverage at your location. It will also assist in assessing whether you are affected by the early switchovers in your area.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Household Assistance Scheme helps eligible households make the switch to digital TV.

You may be eligible for the scheme if you own a functioning TV, have not converted to digital TV, and receive the maximum rate of the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension or Income Support Supplement. Under the Scheme, a government-contracted installer will visit the household to supply, install and demonstrate the use of a high definition set top box, at no cost to the recipient.

Where a person lives in an area that cannot receive terrestrial TV signals (i.e. from a broadcaster transmitter tower), they will be able to receive digital TV by satellite through the government-funded Viewer Access Satellite TV (VAST) service. The Household Assistance Scheme will cover the supply and installation of a high definition satellite set top box and a satellite dish antenna, again at no cost to the eligible householder.

Viewers in Jeeralang/Yinnar South and Boolarra that believe they are eligible for assistance through the Household Assistance Scheme should receive assistance by the day of the switchover to facilitate their transition to the new digital services. These households should ensure that they have responded to their letter or otherwise call 1800 556 443 to register for assistance on the day.

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Digital TV by satellite

Households that cannot receive adequate television reception from a local transmitter will be able to receive all of the digital TV channels from the new government-funded satellite service, the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST).

The new VAST satellite service will show the following 16 digital channels:

High definition channels: ABC News 24 HD, SBS HD, 7mate, GEM, One HD.

Standard definition channels: ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, SBS ONE, SBS TWO, Southern Cross Seven, Imparja Nine, Southern Cross Ten, 7TWO, GO!, Eleven.

There will also be a dedicated local news channel which will, for the first time, give viewers who are reliant on satellite access to their local news.

The application process for accessing the VAST service in regional Victoria opened on 15 December 2010.

To determine your eligibility to access the VAST service and to make an application to receive the VAST services, viewers will need to go to mySwitch on the www.digitalready.gov.au website.

Local digital TV services

From the date of early switchover at each site all digital services from the ABC, SBS, Prime, (7TWO, 7mate), Southern Cross (OneHD, Eleven) and WIN (Gem, GO!) will be available, prior to this date only analog services will be available.

More information about available digital channels, coverage predictions from the individual early switchover sites (and other sites in the area), retailers, installers and switchover events is available through mySwitch at www.digitalready.gov.au

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