



Australian Government



Switching to digital TV in Tin Can Bay, Rainbow Beach and Cooloola Cove

Regional Queensland is switching to digital TV

As part of the Australian Government's switchover to digital television, most areas of regional Queensland are switching to digital-only television on 6 December 2011.

New digital TV services in Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach

New digital TV services are to be established by broadcasters at new sites in Tin Can Bay and Rainbow Beach. Broadcasters have scheduled digital television services to commence in Tin Can Bay on 25 May and in Rainbow Beach on 10 June. This will mean that residents in the area will have access to all of the free-to-air TV channels for the first time.

To receive the new digital TV services, viewers who are currently watching analog services from other local transmitters in the area should re-point their antenna towards the new television tower. An Australian Government Endorsed Antenna Installer will be able to provide advice to ensure that your antenna is correctly positioned to optimise reception from the new local transmitter.

What will I need to do to receive the new transmitter when it starts operating?

When the new transmitters start operating, you will need to:

- re-point your antenna towards the new transmitter
- turn off or disconnect your masthead amplifier or booster (if you have one)
- retune your set-top box or digital TV to find the new channels.

Early switchover in Cooloola Cove on 13 May 2011

Analog TV services in Cooloola Cove were switched off to make way for digital-only TV services on 13 May 2011.

The early switch to digital-only TV was required because the equipment at the local TV transmitter at Comms Reservoir, Cooloola Village, was replaced so that the new digital TV services could be provided.

Switching analog TV off when digital TV is turned on is required in some areas of Australia because of issues such as a lack of available frequencies to provide both the analog and digital TV signals at the same time, or limited facilities at the broadcast site to support two sets of transmission equipment.

Viewers who receive their TV services from the transmitter at Cooloola Cove now have access to all of the digital TV channels including ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, ABC News 24, SBS ONE SBS TWO, Seven, 7TWO, 7mate, Southern Cross Ten, ONE, Eleven, WIN, Gem and GO!

How do I get ready for digital TV?

To receive free-to-air digital TV, you 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. One set-top box or digital TV recorder is required for each TV you wish to convert.

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

Most antennas that are in good condition should work after analog TV signals are switched off, but antennas in poor repair may require an upgrade or replacement. You may also need a new cable connection from the antenna to your television if you experience poor reception.

A qualified antenna installer should be able to measure digital television signal levels at residences and recommend ways to optimise television reception from your local transmitter.

Household Assistance Scheme

The Household Assistance Scheme helps eligible people make the switch to digital TV. Under the scheme, a government-contracted installer will supply, install and demonstrate the use of a high definition set-top box, at no cost. If the person requires a satellite service to access digital free-to-air TV, this will also be provided under the scheme, at no cost.

You or someone you know may be eligible for the scheme if you own a working TV, do not already have access to digital TV and receive the maximum rate of the:

- Age Pension
- Disability Support Pension
- Carer Payment
- DVA Service Pension
- DVA Income Support Supplement.

People in Cooloola Cove, Rainbow Beach and Tin Can Bay who may be eligible for assistance through the scheme should have received a letter from Centrelink in April 2011 inviting them to apply.

If you have not applied, you should call Centrelink on 1800 55 64 43 as soon as possible.

mySwitch

To find out the level of digital television coverage from the transmitter that serves your area, go to mySwitch on the Digital Ready website www.digitalready.gov.au

Enter your full address into mySwitch to retrieve specific information about digital TV coverage for your location. You can also use mySwitch to see what other digital TV coverage is available in your location.

If you do not have access to the internet, call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13. It will also assist in assessing whether you are affected by the early switchovers in your area.

Digital TV by satellite

Households unable to 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 17 digital channels:

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

Standard definition: 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.

Where can I find out more?

For more information about how to get ready for digital TV and the VAST service visit www.digitalready.gov.au or call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13.