



Australian Government

Department of Broadband,
Communications and the Digital Economy



Switching to Digital TV in Sarina, Qld

Regional Queensland is switching to digital TV

As part of the Australian Government's switchover to digital television, regional Queensland is likely to be switching to digital-only television in early December 2011.

New transmitter for digital TV services in Sarina on **3 May 2011**

Broadcasters are proposing to establish a new TV transmitter for **Sarina**. Final planning for the new transmitter is still underway, including the coverage pattern and frequencies for the services. The new transmitter is expected to commence operating on **3 May 2011**.

Television broadcasters are expected to commence digital TV services from the new transmitter in **Sarina on 3 May 2011**. To receive the new digital free-to-air TV channels from the new transmitter, viewers 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.

Current sources of television

Viewers in Sarina currently receive their analog television services from the local self-help transmitter located in Sarina. Analog services available from this site are: ABC, SBS, Seven, WIN and Southern Cross Ten.

Some viewers in Sarina may receive their digital and analog services from the Mackay transmitter, which is about 56 kilometres north-west of Sarina.

Some viewers in the area around Sarina may currently receive their television services from the Aurora satellite service, delivered by broadcasters in the Remote Central and Eastern Australia (RCEA) television licence area. The services available on the Aurora satellite include Imparja (9), Southern Cross Central (7), ABC1 and SBS ONE.

New local digital television transmission

Viewers may soon receive digital television services from the new transmitter once it is established for the Sarina area. The new digital TV channels will be provided by the ABC, SBS, Seven (7TWO, 7mate), Southern Cross Ten (OneHD, Eleven) and WIN (Gem, GO!) are expected to commence from **3 May 2011**.

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.

Get ready now for digital TV

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

If you currently receive a good digital signal from the Mackay site you don't have to do anything. However if you're not receiving good digital signal:

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

To receive free-to-air digital TV, viewers in the **Sarina** area 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 will need a high definition set-top box, digital TV recorder or TV set to receive both SD and HD channels. For example, OneHD, 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. Contact an antenna installer to assess your antenna set-up and help you with any adjustments you need to make to your antenna.

To find your local Australian Government Endorsed Antenna Installer you can call the Digital Switchover Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 or go to **mySwitch** on the Digital Ready website, www.digitalready.gov.au.

Digital TV by satellite

Households who cannot receive an adequate signal from a tower, or who receive their TV from a community-operated 'self-help' transmitter that is not being upgraded from analog to digital, will be able to receive all of the digital TV channels from the new Viewer Access Satellite TV (VAST) service.

The new VAST 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, 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.

Households in the **Sarina** area that do not have adequate reception from the new local transmitter may consider moving to the VAST service to be able to access the full range of digital TV channels.

For those households in the Sarina area who currently receive their television service by way of the Aurora satellite service, you will be able to use your existing satellite dish to access the VAST service, provided it is in good condition. You will need to replace your set-top box with a VAST set-top box. Currently, a VAST set-top box and smart card retail at about \$280 (including GST).

To find out more about the VAST service visit the Digital Ready website at www.digitalready.gov.au

mySwitch

To find out the level of digital television coverage in your area, go to **mySwitch** on the Digital Ready website www.digitalready.gov.au. **mySwitch** can provide you with location specific information about your predicted digital TV coverage from the transmitter(s) serving your area, the channels provided by each transmitter serving your area, your analog TV switch-off date and links to your local Australian Government Endorsed Antenna Installers, retailers participating in the Retail Advisor Scheme, and events organised by the Digital Switchover Taskforce to provide information about switchover in your area. It is also the starting point for making an application to access the VAST service and will provide advice on whether you might be eligible for the Satellite Subsidy Scheme.

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 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 the eligible householder.

Households that are eligible for assistance through this Scheme will be contacted directly by Centrelink and will be invited to participate.

More information

For more information about available digital channels, coverage predictions, retailers, installers and switchover events visit **mySwitch** on the Digital Ready website www.digitalready.gov.au.