



Australian Government

Digital Switchover Taskforce



Switching to digital TV

Information for households in Yarriambiack Shire

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 the Yarriambiack Shire region. These new channels are planned to be on the air by early February 2011. This will mean the digital free-to-air TV channels will be available for the first time in the region.

Early switchover for Hopetoun

Residents in the Hopetoun region 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 the three commercial TV services to residents in the Hopetoun area is being switched to digital-only transmissions by the broadcasters on **2 February 2011**. Viewers in Hopetoun will need to be ready for digital-only TV prior to or on **2 February 2011** to continue to watch free-to-air TV channels.

To keep receiving free-to-air commercial TV, viewers in Hopetoun 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, Prime, (7TWO, 7mate), Southern Cross (OneHD, Eleven) and WIN (Gem, GO!) will be available in digital from **2 February 2011**.

The ABC already transmits in digital from the transmitter serving Hopetoun and Beulah, and those who have already converted their TV should be able to watch ABC1, ABC2, ABC3 and ABC News 24.

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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 ABC2 and ABC3 on your TV then you have already converted to digital TV.

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.

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 (ie. from a broadcaster transmitter tower), they will be able to receive digital TV by satellite through the governmentfunded 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 the eligible householder.

Viewers in Hopetoun 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

Prime, Southern Cross Ten and WIN currently broadcast in analog-only and will roll-out digitalonly services by 2 February 2011. **Analog signals will be switched off on 2 February 2011.**

Digital ABC services are available from the site serving both Hopetoun and Beulah, which is located 15 kilometres south-west of Hopetoun.

More information about available digital channels, coverage predictions from individual sites is available through mySwitch at www.digitalready.gov.au

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