



Australian Government



Kelso and Rasmussen it's time to get digital ready

Regional Queensland is switching to digital TV

On 6 December 2011, half a million households across regional Queensland will enter a new era of all-digital TV broadcasting. This means that the analog TV signals that have been operating across regional Queensland since the 1960s will be switched off for good, and replaced with free-to-air digital-only signals.

To continue watching TV after 6 December 2011 all households across the switchover region will need to either convert their existing analog TV to digital, by adding a set-top box or digital video recorder, or have a digital ready TV in their home.

TV in Kelso and Rasmussen

If you live in Kelso or Rasmussen in regional Queensland you are currently receiving your TV signals from one of two locations. If you are already watching digital TV you are most likely receiving your existing analog or digital TV services from the Mount Stuart transmitter in Townsville (seven kilometres north-east of Kelso). The easiest way to tell if you are watching digital TV is to see whether you can watch ABC2, SBS TWO, 7TWO, Go! or 11. However if you can't watch these digital channels and are currently only able to watch ABC, SBS, Seven, WIN and Southern Cross Ten you might be receiving your TV services from the local analog transmitter in Kelso.

What is next for Kelso and Rasmussen?

If you live in Kelso or Rasmussen you will need to have your TV and antenna equipment set up to receive digital TV services from the Mt Stuart transmitter **before 6 December 2011**. This is because the transmitter in Kelso, where some of you are currently receiving your analog services from, will not be upgraded to digital whilst the Mt Stuart transmitter currently is. When analog signals are turned off on 6 December 2011 the Kelso transmitter will no longer operate.

What do I need to do?

If you have a new TV or are watching subscription TV then you're probably digital ready. But, if your TV is a few years old and you are only watching ABC, SBS, Seven, WIN and Southern Cross Ten you might need to:

- attach a digital set-top box, or a digital video recorder to your existing TV
- purchase a new TV with an integrated digital TV tuner.

You will also need to work out whether you are getting your current TV signals from Mt Stuart or Kelso and make adjustments accordingly.

Digital Ready Information Line **1800 20 10 13**

How do I get digital TV from the Mt Stuart transmitter?

If you are receiving your current services from Kelso you will need to change your set-up to receive services from the Mt Stuart transmitter instead. You can do this by:

- ensuring your antenna is suitable to receive reception from the Mt Stuart transmitter (this means you will need an antenna capable of receiving UHF Band IV and Band V signals),
- pointing your current antenna (if suitable) or new antenna towards the Mt Stuart transmitter, or
- retuning your set-top box or digital TV to tune in to the channels available from the Mt Stuart transmitter.

An antenna installer can help assess your antenna set-up and with any adjustments you need to make. To find your local Australian Government Endorsed Antenna Installer call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 or visit **mySwitch** on the Digital Ready website.

What if my current reception is poor?

Most antennas, in good condition, should work after the analog TV signals are switched off, but antennas in poor condition may need to be replaced.

Antennas that are designed specifically to receive services from the Kelso transmitter (UHF Band V) may not be suitable for reception of services from Mt Stuart (UHF Band IV and Band V). You might also need a new cable connection from the antenna to your TV if you experience poor reception.

What if I can't receive reception at all?

If your antenna is correctly set up and you are still not able to receive adequate reception from your local transmitter, you may be eligible to access the new government funded digital Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service.

If you live in Kelso, do not currently receive digital TV and rely solely on the local TV tower in Kelso (which is not being converted to digital) you may be eligible to receive a subsidy to move to satellite TV instead.

For eligible households, the Satellite Subsidy Scheme will substantially reduce the cost of purchasing and installing the Satellite TV Service to less than half of the total cost, resulting in a household payment of \$220.

To check your eligibility for satellite TV, or apply for the subsidy, call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 or visit www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy.

Satellite Subsidy applications for eligible households in Kelso open on **19 October** and close **31 October 2011**.

Digital Ready Information Line **1800 20 10 13**

Where can I find out more?

A range of tools and resources are available to help you make the switch to digital TV. Visit www.digitalready.gov.au or call 1800 20 10 13 for more information today.

mySwitch

To find out the level of digital TV coverage in your area, go to ***mySwitch*** on the Digital Ready website www.digitalready.gov.au. ***mySwitch*** is an interactive tool that can provide you with location specific information about your predicted digital TV coverage from the Mt Stuart transmitter, the channels provided from the transmitter, 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.

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.

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

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Digital Ready Information Line **1800 20 10 13**