



Australian Government



Switching to Digital TV—Apollo Bay

Television broadcasters will commence digital TV services to residents in the Apollo Bay area in **June 2011**. To receive the new digital free-to-air TV channels, 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.

All of the digital TV channels provided by the SBS, Imparja, Prime (7TWO, 7mate), Southern Cross Ten (ONE) and WIN (Gem, GO!) will be available in digital in **June 2011**. The ABC already transmits in digital from the transmitter serving Apollo Bay, and those who have already converted their TV should be able to watch ABC1, ABC2, ABC3 and ABC News 24.

Get ready now for 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, 7mate and GEM are all broadcast in HD.

A Digital Advisor in participating retail stores 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**.

If you currently have a good analog TV signal, you should expect a similar level for digital TV reception. In most locations in Apollo Bay, the ABC is already broadcasting in digital so you can tune into the ABC digital services now to check your local digital TV reception. An antenna installer can also provide advice on how to improve your digital TV reception.

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 provides you with all the information you will need to prepare for the 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 the Scheme have been contacted directly by Centrelink and were invited to participate. Centrelink also issued follow up letters to eligible householders in Apollo Bay at the end of last year to advise them of the earlier switchover to digital TV.

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 government funded Viewer Access Satellite Television (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 Apollo Bay that believe they are eligible for assistance through the Household Assistance Scheme should call 1800 556 443 to register for assistance before 5 June 2011. Residents who have already received assistance through the Household Assistance Scheme and require further assistance with equipment should contact Techlife on 1800 443 716 between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

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 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.

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 your region that do not have adequate reception from local transmitters may also consider moving to the VAST service to be able to access the full range of digital TV channels. The application process for accessing the VAST service in regional Victoria opened on 15 December 2010.

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.