



Australian Government



## Viewer Access Satellite Television service for Central and Eastern Australia: QLD, NT, NSW, ACT, SA, VIC and TAS

The majority of Australians receive TV signals from local transmission towers, however there have always been, and will continue to be, places that cannot get a good reliable signal from a tower.

To ensure that people are able to enjoy the same benefits of digital TV no matter where they live, the Australian Government is investing \$375.4 million to provide digital free-to-air TV services from a new satellite platform called the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service.

The establishment of the VAST service ensures that anyone in Australia that cannot receive digital TV terrestrially has access to a reliable and professionally operated free-to-air service now and into the future.

### How do I access the VAST service?

The Central and Eastern VAST service is available to viewers who are unable to obtain adequate terrestrial reception of one or more of the commercial digital TV services.

To see if you are eligible for and to apply for VAST, please visit [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au). You can also apply by calling the Digital Ready Information Line on **1800 20 10 13**.

The specific circumstances of each application may require investigation by the broadcasters and it can take up to 15 business days before a decision is reached.

### What channels are available on Central and Eastern VAST?

The Central and Eastern VAST service consists of at least 17 digital TV channels carrying a comparable level of services available terrestrially in metropolitan areas.

The channels available on the central and eastern VAST service are:

ABC				
SBS				
Imparja				
Southern Cross				
Ten				
Open Narrowcast Services				

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

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The Rural Health Channel delivers the latest health news information and training to health professionals and communities and is the first specialised free-to-air non-commercial channel to be provided on VAST. The VAST service also provides National Indigenous Television Service (NITV) and Indigenous Community Television (ICTV) which greatly expands the availability of Indigenous information and content for all Australians.

All programming is provided on New South Wales time, except for the Queensland and Northern Territory SD channels, which are provided on Queensland time.

## VAST regional news services (channel 4)

The Central and Eastern VAST service also provides viewers with access to the local regional news services currently broadcast by the commercial broadcasters in their relevant terrestrial license areas. These news services are provided through dedicated news channels which can be accessed by pressing 4 on the viewer's remote control. The news services of the national broadcasters, the ABC and the SBS, are also provided. ABC news is provided through ABC1 on a state basis and the national news broadcasts through ABC News 24.

WIN News	Southern Cross News	Seven News	NBN News	PRIME News
<b>401:</b> Cairns and Townsville	<b>410:</b> QLD, NT, NSW and VIC news updates	<b>412:</b> Cairns and Townsville	<b>415:</b> Gold Coast and Lismore	<b>418:</b> Coffs Harbour and Tamworth
<b>402:</b> Mackay and Rockhampton	<b>411:</b> Tasmania and Spencer Gulf and Broken Hill	<b>413:</b> Mackay and Rockhampton	<b>416:</b> Coffs Harbour and Tamworth	<b>419:</b> NSW and VIC news updates
<b>403:</b> Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba		<b>414:</b> Wide Bay and Sunshine Coast	<b>417:</b> Newcastle and Central Coast	<b>420:</b> Orange, Wagga Wagga and Albury
<b>404:</b> Orange and Wagga Wagga				
<b>405:</b> Wollongong and Canberra				
<b>406:</b> Albury and Gippsland				
<b>407:</b> Bendigo and Shepparton				
<b>408:</b> Ballarat and Mildura				
<b>409:</b> Tasmania and Nine News Darwin				

## ABC and SBS radio services on VAST

The ABC and SBS also provide a wide range of radio services on VAST.

One of the benefits of VAST is that the ABC can provide a wider range of radio services than carried on the Aurora platform. The availability of ABC radio services on VAST will ensure that listeners in regional, rural and remote areas will continue to have access to ABC radio services that they rely on for news, current affairs, emergency information, sport and entertainment.

The full range of ABC radio services available on the Aurora platform will be made available on VAST. Additionally, a range of new ABC radio services, the ABC digital-only services and SBS radio channels will be available on VAST including:

ABC	SBS
Dig	Sydney Radio 1
ABC Country	Sydney Radio 2
ABC Jazz	Melbourne Radio 1
ABC Grandstand	Melbourne Radio 2
Triple J unearthed	National South East
	Chill
	Asia Pop

The ABC and SBS will continue to provide radio services on the Aurora satellite platform until analog TV transmissions cease at the end of 2013.

## VAST certified equipment

Viewers are advised not to purchase a VAST set-top box before establishing that they are eligible to receive the VAST service.

There is a selection of VAST certified set-top boxes available for purchase. They are available directly from the manufacturers or from selected retailers and installers. The retail cost for a high definition VAST set-top box with the smart card ranges from about \$280 to \$600, depending on the set-top box selected. A VAST set-top box will be required for each TV in your house that you would like to convert to the VAST service.

A satellite dish retails from about \$100 to \$500, depending on the size of the dish required. In most parts of Australia a small to medium dish will be adequate; however, in some parts of remote Australia a larger dish will be needed. Installation costs will depend on location and the individual circumstances of each household. Viewers who require a larger dish (or live in cyclone areas) are likely to have higher installation costs because of the more complex mounting requirements. Viewers who already receive their TV services from Aurora will need to buy a VAST set-top box to receive the VAST service. Aurora viewers will be able to use their old satellite dish to access VAST provided it is equipped with a wideband low noise block down converter (LNB). Satellite dishes purchased in the last 7 years are likely to have a wideband LNB.

For more information regarding VAST set-top boxes, recommended satellite dish sizes or LNBS, please call the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13.

## What advertising is broadcast on the VAST service?

The programming and advertising currently broadcast on the Central and Eastern VAST service is determined by the VAST broadcasters (a joint venture of Southern Cross Austereo and Imparja Television).

Imparja Television inserts its own advertising primarily from the Northern Territory while Seven Central (7 Central) Television advertising is primarily from regional Queensland. The advertising for the TEN Network is sourced from either Brisbane or Melbourne.

## Need some help or more information?

There are tools and resources available to help you.

For further information visit the Digital Ready website [www.digitalready.gov.au](http://www.digitalready.gov.au) or call the Digital Ready Information Line **1800 20 10 13**. You can also find localised information by entering your address into the *myswitch* tool on the Digital Ready website.