



Australian Government



Hillwood to switch to digital-only TV early

Australia is making the switch to digital-only free-to-air TV. By the end of 2013 all free-to-air TV services in Australia will only be broadcast in digital-only.

Hillwood is switching to digital-only free-to-air TV earlier than other areas in Tasmania with broadcasters planning to switch the Hillwood transmitter site from analog to digital on **Thursday 18 October 2012**. If broadcasters change this date an announcement will be made.

An early switchover occurs when the analog TV signals are turned off on the same day the digital signals are turned on. This happens because the transmitter being upgraded is unable to broadcast analog and digital TV at the same time.

After the early switchover Hillwood will have access to the full suite of digital free-to-air digital channels from the national and commercial broadcasters for the first time.

Digital standard definition (SD) channels from the commercial broadcasters: Southern Cross, 7TWO, WIN, GO!, TDT Ten, Eleven, and the high definition (HD) channels, 7mate (Southern Cross HD), GEM (WIN HD), and ONE HD (TDT Ten HD) will be available after the early switchover.

Digital SD channels from the national broadcasters: ABC1, ABC2, ABC3, SBS ONE, SBS TWO; and the HD channels: ABC News 24 HD and SBS HD will also be available after the early switchover.

What do I need to do?

To access the new digital TV services you will need a TV that is capable of receiving digital signals by either:

- connecting a digital set-top-box or digital recorder to an existing analog TV; or
- upgrading to a digital TV which has an in built-in digital tuner.

Some properties may also need to upgrade their antenna systems and cables, including buildings with shared antenna systems. If you rent your home you should consult with your landlord or owners corporation.

If you think you might need to upgrade your antenna system you should consult an Australian Government Endorsed Antenna Installer. To find your closest installer enter your full address into the mySwitch tool at www.digitalready.gov.au or call the Digital Ready Information Line on **1800 20 10 13**.

You should ask the installer to point your antenna to the Hillwood transmitter site and ensure that it is adjusted for correct polarity (horizontal).

What to expect during the early switchover

Work to upgrade the transmitter will usually begin in the morning. There may be periods during the day where there are no or disrupted TV services. Work should be completed by late afternoon and then all digital TV services should be available.

After the upgrade has been completed, you will have to tune your set-top box or digital TV to ensure you are receiving the new digital channels.

Household Assistance Scheme

You may be eligible for the Household Assistance Scheme if you have a working TV, have not yet converted to digital TV and receive the maximum rate of the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, the Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension or Income Support Supplement payment.

The Scheme provides an entire package of assistance and is free to eligible households. Assistance includes the supply and installation of a set-top-box, a demonstration of how to use the equipment, 12 months after care support and equipment warranty and where necessary, antenna and cable upgrades if the resident owns their home.

The Department of Human Services has written to eligible people inviting them to opt-in to the Household Assistance Scheme by calling **1800 55 64 43**. If you believe that you or someone you know are eligible for assistance and you have not received a letter, call the Department of Human Services on **1800 55 64 43**.

Need some help or more information?

There are a range of tools and resources available to help you.

A good first port of call is the Digital Ready website www.digitalready.gov.au and the Digital Ready Information Line **1800 20 10 13** (8am to 10pm AEST). You can also find localised information by entering your address into the *mySwitch* tool on the Digital Ready website.