Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011

Answers Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Question No: 1

Hansard Ref: EC26

Topic: SELF-HELP RETRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN REMOTE AREAS

Senator Troeth asked at the hearing:

How many self-help retransmission facilities are operated in remote areas by how many licensees?

Answer:

Based on data received from the Australian Communications and Media Authority there are approximately 487 self-help retransmission facilities licensed to 315 different licensees in the Remote and Regional Western Australia and Remote Central and Eastern Australia licence areas.

Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011

Answers Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Question No: 2

Hansard Ref: EC 28

Topic: HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE SCHEME AND SATELLITE SUBSIDY SCHEME CONSULTATION

Senator Troeth asked:

What date was the Household Assistance Scheme/Satellite Subsidy Scheme launched and could you please provide the discussion documents relating to the Scheme that were circulated to the Consumer Expert Group?

Answer:

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy announced the launch of the Government's Digital Switchover Household Assistance Scheme in Mildura, Victoria on 21 January 2010 (the link to the media release is below). Oral reports were provided to CEG from the first meeting on 7 May 2009. A copy of the Minutes of that meeting are attached reflecting the discussion. The first written brief provided to the CEG was on 4 March 2010 and is attached.

On 11 May 2010 and as part of the Budget 2010 measures, the Government announced a satellite subsidy for those viewers in communities reliant on community run self-help towers, households in identified remote indigenous communities, and in regional and remote areas, may be eligible for this subsidy (link to media release below). At the May 2010 CEG, while no oral report was provided, the following documents were provided to members and are attached:

- the Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) timetable;
- SSS map of subsidy areas (by tower;) and
- SSS local map for Regional SA.

Members were also directed to the SSS website (*www.digitalready.gov.au/subsidy*) that went live in April 2010 for more information. The first written brief provided to the CEG was on 26 August 2010 and is attached.

As the documents are those provided to the meetings at the time, Senators should refer to the Digital Ready Website *www.digitalready.gov.au* for the most up to date information on the Schemes.

EXTRACT FROM CEG MINUTES 7 MAY 2009

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Presentation: Household Assistance Program

Mr Robert McMahon, Assistance Secretary of the Policy and Regulation Branch of the Digital Switchover Taskforce, gave an overview of the Household Assistance Program that will be trialled in Mildura.

Mr McMahon explained that the Program would include supply, installation and demonstration of a set-top box for eligible households, along with upgrades to cabling and the antenna system where necessary. Those eligible for the Program were households with at least one resident in receipt of the maximum rate of the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment or Department of Veterans' Affairs service pension or income support supplement payments. He noted that the eligible groups were a proxy for those who are least likely to have the capacity to convert on their own.

Mr McMahon advised the meeting that his Branch is working closely with Centrelink. This would facilitate identification and communication with the eligible groups. He said that when the scheme begins in Mildura towards the end of 2009, all eligible households in the Mildura TV Licence area would receive a letter from Centrelink asking if they wished to participate in the Household Assistance Program.

Mr McMahon said the set-top boxes and installation services are being procured through a tender process. All set-top boxes will be high definition and will include a range of accessibility and usability functions broadly based on those used by the U.K.

Consumer Expert Group Thursday 4 March 2010

AGENDA ITEM 2: HOUSEHOLD ASSISTANCE SCHEME - IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

Background

The Household Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) is a core component of Australia's digital TV switchover strategy. The Scheme was established to provide technical and practical in-home assistance to those households anticipated to have the most difficulty in switching over to digital TV.

Households may be eligible for assistance where they own a functioning TV, do not already have access to digital TV and at least one resident is in receipt of a maximum rate Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) service pension or the DVA income support supplement payment. The Scheme will, at no cost to eligible households, supply, install and demonstrate a high definition set-top box and conduct any necessary external cabling and antenna work if eligible.

On 4 December 2009, Hills Industries was announced as the successful contractor for the Mildura TV licence area. TechLife, working in conjunction with Hills Industries, will provide in-house assistance for eligible households in the Mildura region.

Recent Developments

Mildura Implementation

The Scheme commenced in the Mildura TV licence area on 21 January 2010. Media coverage of the first household to receive an assistance package was overwhelmingly positive.

Approximately 7,000 potentially eligible households in the Mildura region have now received an invitation letter inviting them to contact Centrelink to opt into the Scheme. As of 11 February 2010, 1,300 households had met the Scheme's eligibility criteria and will shortly receive an assistance package to switchover to digital TV.

In close cooperation with Centrelink, Techlife and Hills Industries, the Taskforce is undertaking a broad range of activities, including:

- developing a web-based portal for customer data, installation events and quality assurance;
- reviewing and undertaking any necessary enhancements to relevant IT systems; and
- using information from Mildura to make improvements for future switchover areas.

Material for visually and hearing impaired customers

Within the bounds of market availability, the set-top box includes a range of features and specifications designed to make them as user friendly as possible.

To ensure that elderly and special needs customers are able to access the information they need to use the set-top box, they will also be provided with the following material:

- A set-top box User's Manual and the Quick Set-Up Guide in hard and electronic format. On request, customers will be able to obtain these documents in PDF and RTF format on a USB stick provided by DBCDE on request, or by downloading the documents from the Digital Ready website (currently being finalised); and
- A remote control walk through document designed to be read by a screen reader (computer software application).

Regional South Australia Tender

The Taskforce released a Request for Tender (RFT) on 15 December 2009 for the procurement and installation of a high definition set-top box (and associated cabling and antenna requirements) for eligible households in the Regional South Australia TV licence areas (Riverland, Mt Gambier, Spence Gulf and Broken Hill).

The RFT closed on 1 February 2010. The tender evaluation process has commenced and is expected to be completed by April/May 2010.

Next Steps

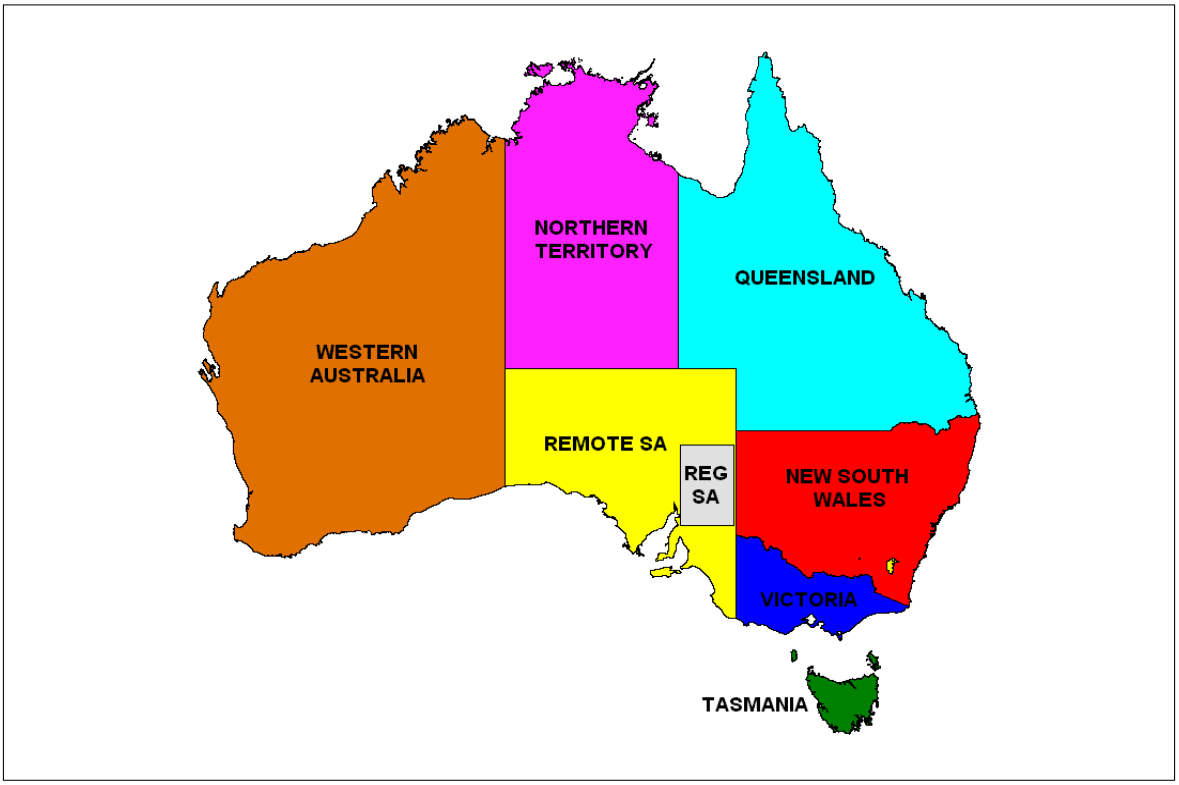
- Follow-up letters to households in the Mildura region that did not respond to the initial invitation letter will be sent by Centrelink on 18 April 2010.
- The successful Service Contractor(s) for the Regional South Australia TV licence areas will be announced mid-2010.
- The RFT for the Regional Victoria TV licence areas will be released in mid to late 2010.

Australian Government
Digital Switchover Taskforce

READY

Satellite Subsidy Scheme timetable

The following map shows when the Satellite Subsidy Scheme will be rolled-out in each area of Australia.

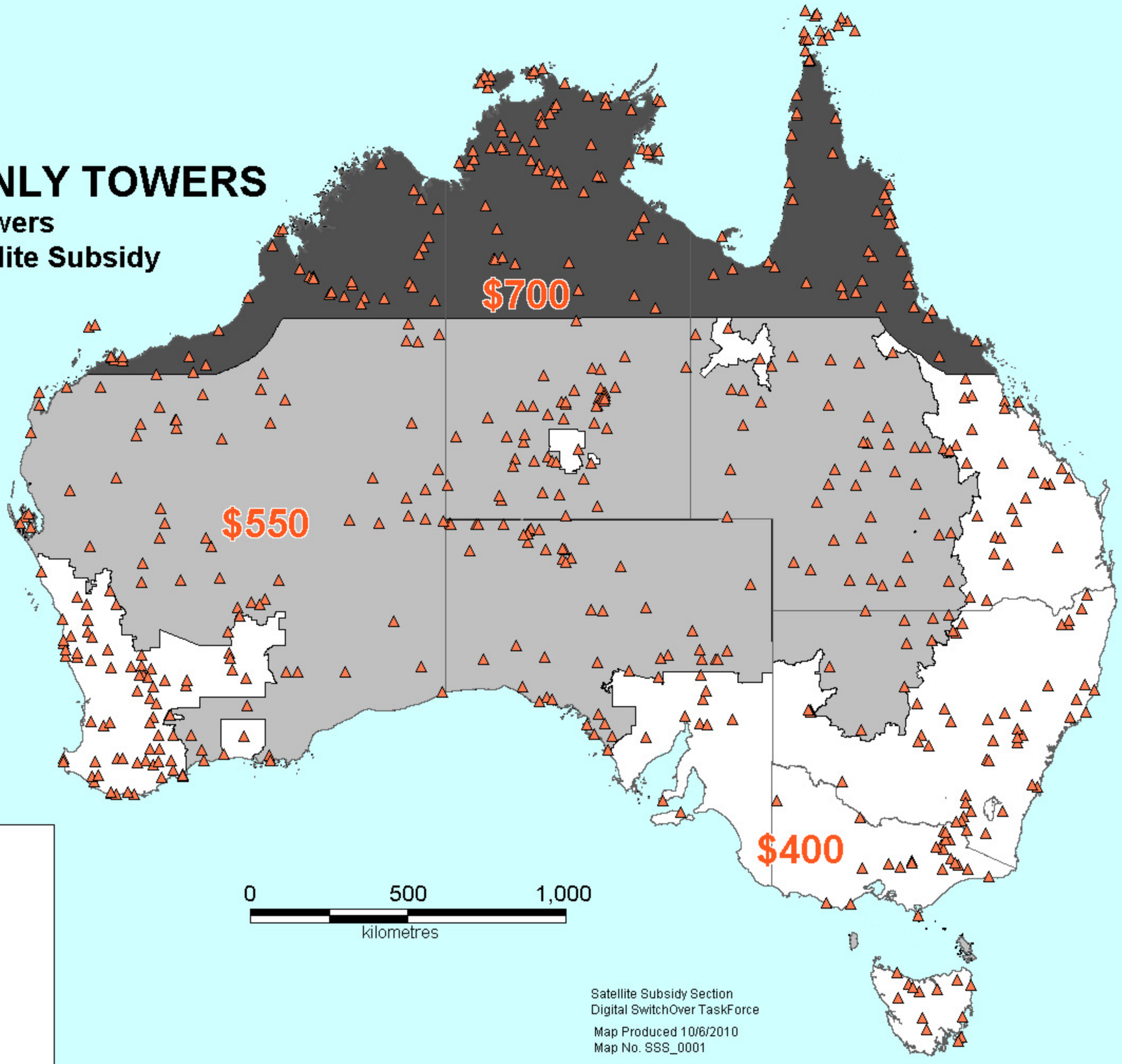


Subsidy area	Applications open	Satellite Subsidy
Regional South Australia	15 July 2010	$400
Victoria	5 November 2010	$400
Queensland	20 April 2011	$400, $550, $700
Remote South Australia	September 2011	$400, $550
New South Wales	November 2011	$400, $550
Northern Territory	May 2012	$550, $700
Tasmania	October 2012	$400
Western Australia	November 2012	$400, $550, $700

Australian Government
Digital Switchover Taskforce

ANALOG ONLY TOWERS

572 Self Help Towers
Affected by Satellite Subsidy



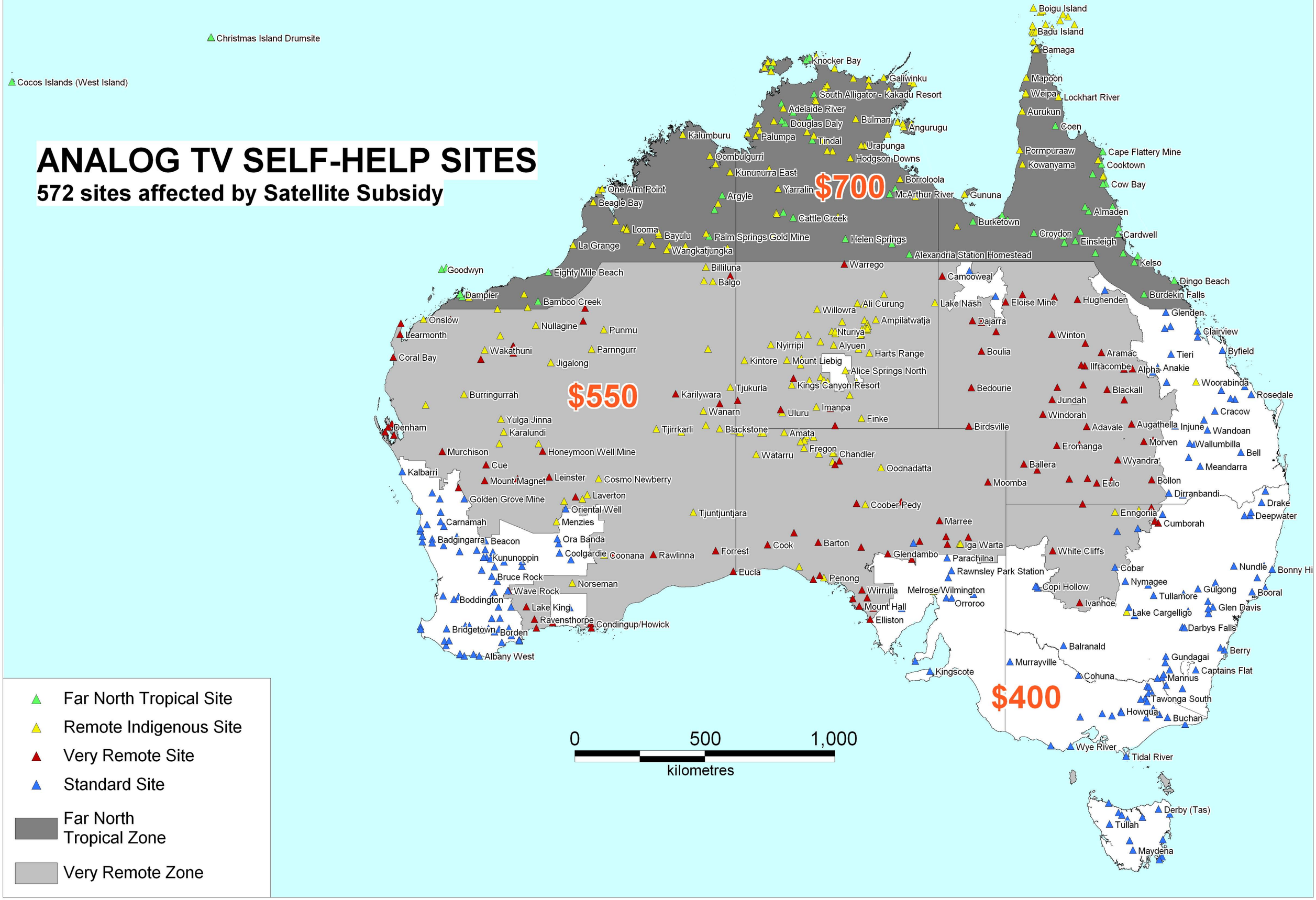
- Self-Help Tower Sites
- Far North Tropical Zone
- Very Remote Zone

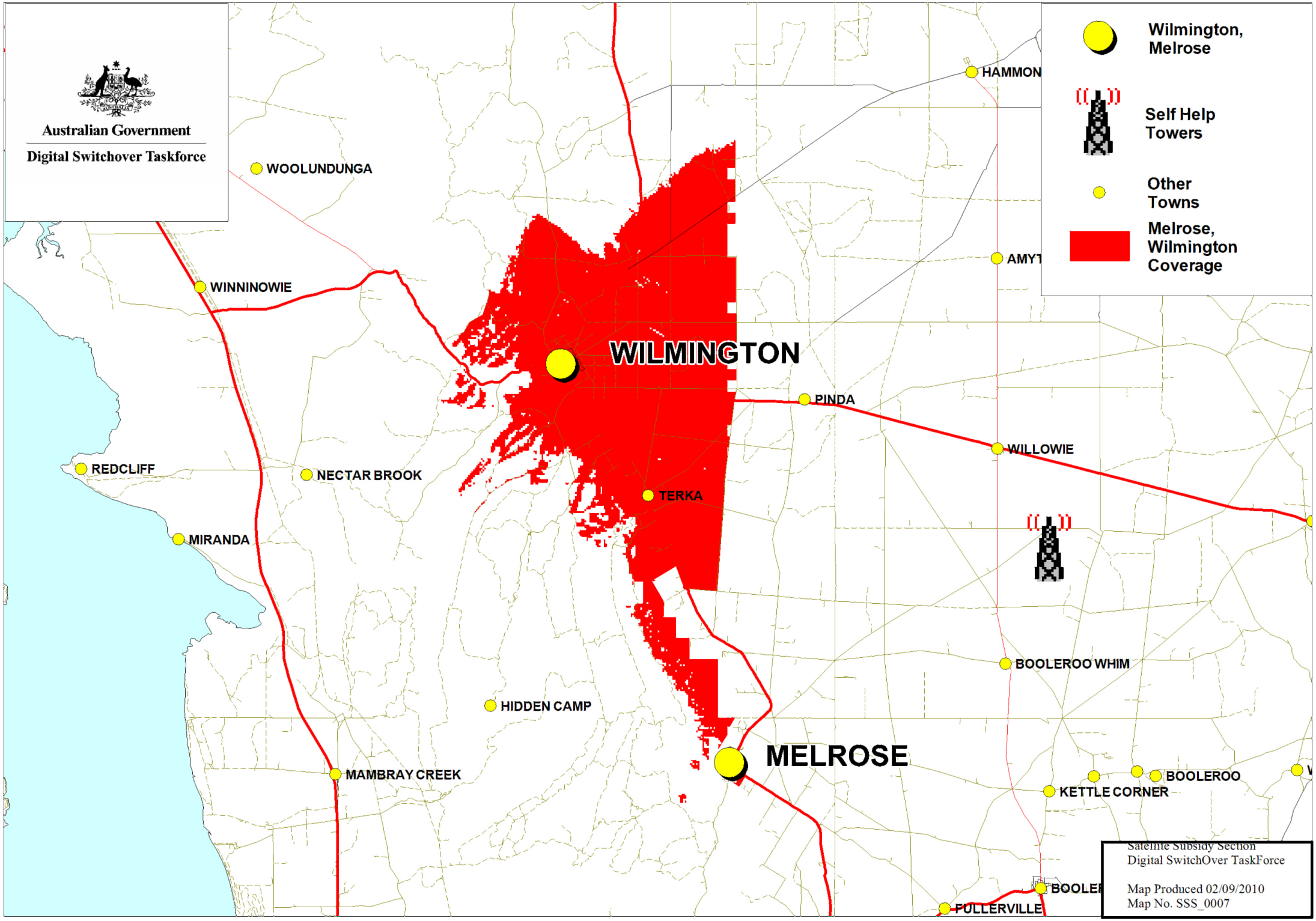
Satellite Subsidy Section
Digital SwitchOver TaskForce

Map Produced 10/6/2010
Map No. SSS_0001

ANALOG TV SELF-HELP SITES

572 sites affected by Satellite Subsidy




Australian Government
Digital Switchover Taskforce
Wilmington, Melrose
Self Help Towers
Other Towns
Melrose, Wilmington Coverage
WOOLUNDUNGA
WINNINOWIE
WILMINGTON
HAMMON
AMYT
PINDA
WILLOWIE
REDCLIFF
NECTAR BROOK
TERKA
MIRANDA
BOOLEROO WHIM
HIDDEN CAMP
MELROSE
MAMBRAY CREEK
KETTLE CORNER
BOOLEROO
FULLERVILLE
Satellite Subsidy Section
Digital SwitchOver TaskForce
Map Produced 02/09/2010
Map No. SSS_0007

PAPER PROVIDED TO CEG MEETING 26 AUGUST 2010

AGENDA ITEM 3 : SATELLITE SUBSIDY SCHEME

Background

On 5 January 2010 the Australian Government announced a $99.1 million Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) to assist communities relying on analog self-help sites which will now need to convert to satellite due to the closure of these towers.

There are 680 self-help sites in Australia and broadcasters will convert a number of these to digital. However, about 570 sites will not be converted and will cease operation. This will affect around 127,000 households in over 700 communities. Households in these areas may need to install VAST satellite equipment in order to watch free-to-air television.

In recognition of the investment made by self-help communities in establishing and running their own sites, the Government has funded the SSS to ensure that the cost for households to install satellite is comparable to the cost of converting to digital via a terrestrial set-top box. Eligible households will receive a minimum subsidy of $400 toward the cost of installation. Households in 'very remote' and 'far north tropical' areas will receive subsidies of $550 and $700 respectively to meet the costs of travel in very remote areas and the larger dish requirements in tropical zones. Households in designated Remote Indigenous Communities may be eligible for an additional subsidy of $280 reflecting the unique circumstances of these areas.

- A map showing the location of subsidy tiers is at **ATTACHMENT A**

Recent Developments

SSS service delivery model

The Australian Government has approved a service delivery model which is underpinned by the use of contracted service providers in each subsidy area. These service contractors, who will be qualified and experienced in the installation of satellite TV equipment, will be selected through a competitive procurement process. The service contractors will be responsible for managing and coordinating household installations. This approach will ensure the quality of installations and an appropriate level of safety for the installers carrying out the activity. Each region will be serviced by either a single or multiple service contractors, depending on the number of towns and size of the area involved.

Households are responsible for meeting costs associated with installation of VAST satellite TV in excess of the Subsidy amount, by way of a fixed per household contribution. The Subsidy is expected to bring the 'per household' payment down to around $200-350. The exact cost will depend on pricing arrangements negotiated with service providers in each region, which will reflect travel and installation costs.

SSS roll-out schedule

The SSS timetable broadly aligns the roll-out of the Scheme in remote areas of Australia to regional areas of the same state. For example, the Victorian component of the Remote Central & Eastern Australia Licence Area will be eligible for the Scheme when the Regional Victoria Licence Area is eligible, in the first half of 2011.

It is not possible to align the SSS roll-out with the Digital Switchover Timetable. This is because eighty per cent of eligible self-help towers in Australia, serving around 600 towns, are located in Remote areas. It would be impractical, from both a workforce and timing perspective, to install a satellite solution for households in all of these areas during 2013 in accordance with the Digital Switchover Timetable. This SSS roll-out timetable will accommodate the high volume of satellite installations in remote areas by spreading the workload over a three year roll-out period (2011-2013).

The Subsidy application window for the Scheme will close two months prior to the installation window in each switchover region. This will enable the service contractor to 'batch' satellite installations in remote areas. This is an important industry requirement designed to improve the speed, efficiency and safety of the roll-out process in remote and isolated areas. It will also keep the required levels of household payments as low as possible and ensure that households that have opted-in will have their equipment installed in time before switchover in their area.

South Australia

The SSS commenced in 'Regional South Australia' on 15 July 2010. Self-help towers in these towns will be turned-off by 15 December 2010. Households will be able to opt-in until 31 October. During this first phase of the roll-out eligible households in the towns of Melrose, Wilmington and Orroroo will be invited to opt-in to the SSS. These households will be eligible for a $400 subsidy and will be required to pay a $200 co-contribution. Skybridge (Australia) Pty Ltd has been selected as the service contractor.

Regional South Australia is the only region where the state-by-state approach cannot be fully achieved. Due to the scale and complexity of 'Remote South Australia', with 55 self-help towers and a range of Remote Indigenous Communities, roll-out is scheduled for the second half of 2011, alongside Queensland.

Victoria

A service contractor will be selected through a competitive selection process to service the Victorian market. The RFT was released to the market in July. RFT responses are due by 18 August 2010.

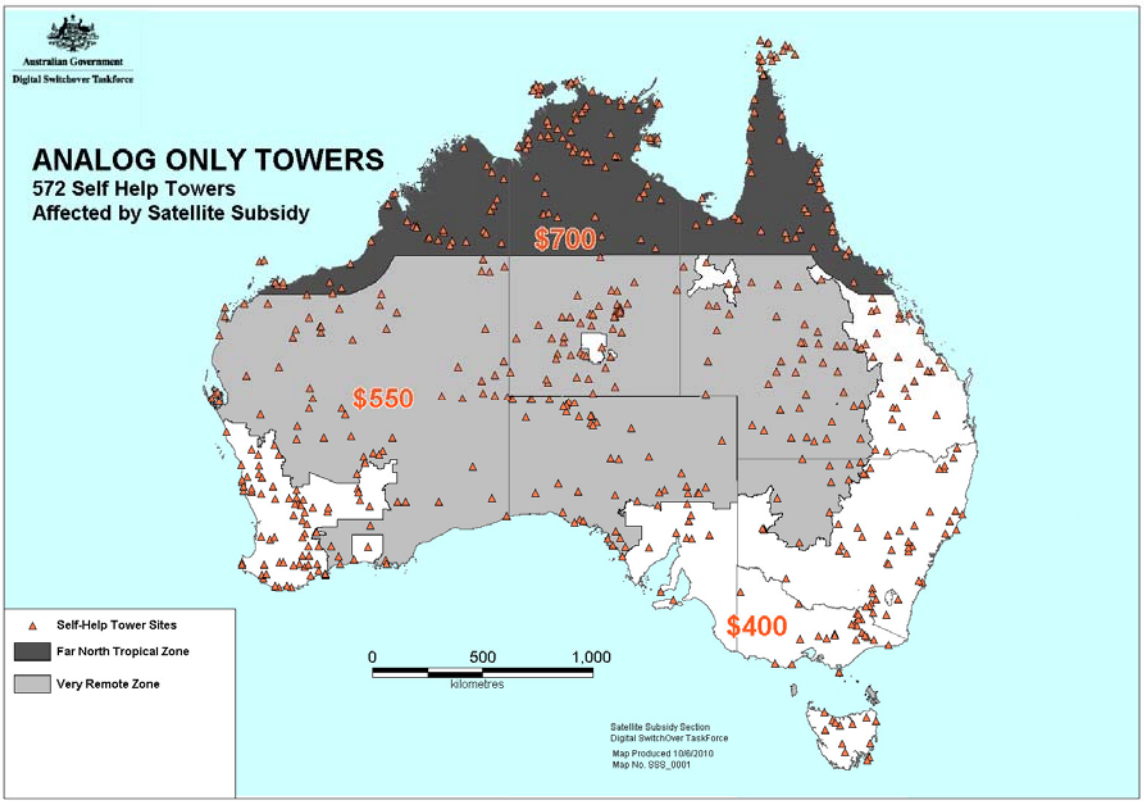
Other states

Following the roll-out of the SSS in Regional South Australia and Victoria, the Scheme will be implemented in Queensland, followed by remote South Australia, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Tasmania and Western Australia.

- The SSS roll-out schedule is outlined at **ATTACHMENT B**

ATTACHMENT A

SSS Subsidy Tiers



ATTACHMENT B

SSS Roll-out Schedule

The table below shows the opening and closing dates for the Satellite Subsidy in each Subsidy Area. The 'regional' areas are defined as the relevant Regional Television Switchover Areas for that State.

Subsidy Area	SSS Applications OPEN	SSS Applications CLOSE	SSS Install Close Date
SA – Regional	15 JUL 2010	31 OCT 2010	15 DEC 2010
VIC	5 NOV 2010	5 MAR 2011	5 MAY 2010
QLD – Regional	20 APR 2011	20 AUG 2011	OCT 2011*
QLD – Remote	" "	20 JAN 2012	MAR 2012
SA – Remote	30 SEP 2011	DEC 2012	FEB 2012
S-NSW	NOV 2011	MAR 2012	MAY 2012*
N-NSW	APR 2012	AUG 2012	OCT 2012*
NSW-Remote	" "	" "	OCT 2012
NT	MAY 2012	FEB 2013	APR 2013
TAS	OCT 2012	APR 2013	JUN 2013*
WA	NOV 2012	OCT 2013	DEC 2013

* These dates may change slightly when the final Regional Switchover Timetable for the entire Digital Switchover is announced.

Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011

Answers Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Question No: 3

Hansard Ref: EC36

Topic: SATELLITE SUBISDY SCHEME AND TIMEFRAMES

Senator Troeth asked:

When does the Satellite Subsidy Scheme close in remote Queensland?

Answer:

The Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) applications period for all of Queensland, including remote areas, closes on 2 October 2011. The installations are expected to be complete by 2 December 2011, subject to installation contract arrangements.

This allows over four months for households to apply (opt-in) for the subsidy, as the Queensland SSS applications period opens on 18 May 2011.

Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011

Answers Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Question No: 4

Hansard Ref: EC32

Topic: LIST OF TRANSMITTERS IN QUEENSLAND

Senator Fisher asked:

Could you provide a list of broadcaster operated transmitters in Queensland that will be converted to digital and when will they be converted?

Answer:

The department, based on advice received from the ACMA, has compiled the attached spreadsheet of broadcaster operated transmitters in Queensland (**Attachment A**).

In summary, there are 129 broadcaster operated digital television sites requiring services to be converted under the Commercial Television Conversion Scheme or the National Television Conversion Scheme:

- at 66 of these sites, all of the services required to be provided by national or commercial broadcasters have commenced digital transmissions;
- at 25 of these sites, some of the services required to be provided by national or commercial broadcasters are still to be converted to digital
- there are 33 sites where no services required to be provided by national or commercial broadcasters have been converted to digital; and
- services at 5 sites are not expected to be converted to digital as digital television coverage is likely to be provided from an alternative site operating in the area.

In addition to the broadcaster operated sites required to be converted under the Commercial Television Conversion Scheme or the National Television Conversion Scheme, there are 14 self-help retransmission sites that are expected to be converted to digital by either commercial broadcasters or local councils and 13 new ‘gap filler’ sites being established by commercial broadcasters.

Broadcaster operated digital television services to be converted under the Commercial or National Television Conversion Schemes

Category	Licence Area	Area Served	Digital services On Air	Digital service still to be	Status	Rollout dates	Comments
METRO	BRISBANE	Boonah	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/12/2006	
METRO	BRISBANE	Brisbane	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ,CTV		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/01/2001	
METRO	BRISBANE	Currumbin	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ,NEN,NBN,NRN		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 13/09/2004	
METRO	BRISBANE	Esk	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/12/2006	
METRO	BRISBANE	Gold Coast	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ,NEN,NBN,NRN		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 13/09/2004	
METRO	BRISBANE	Gold Coast Southern Hinterland	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ,NEN,NBN,NRN		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 12/07/2005	
METRO	BRISBANE	Sunshine Coast	ABQ,SBS,BTQ,QTQ,TVQ,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/06/2006	
METRO	BRISBANE	Moore			Not expected to be required in digital	N/A	Digital coverage likely to be provided from an alternative site
METRO	REGIONAL QLD	Gympie	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/08/2004	
METRO	REGIONAL QLD	Gympie Town	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/08/2004	
METRO	REGIONAL QLD	Nambour	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/08/2004	
METRO	REGIONAL QLD	Noosa/Tewantin	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/08/2004	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Airlie Beach	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 30/04/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Ayr	ABTQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/02/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Babinda	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 30/09/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Bell	ABDQ,SBS		All broadcaster required services on-air	Conv. by 1/12/2011	Other services to be implemented by council as retransmission conversions
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Blackwater	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/07/2008	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Bowen Town	ABTQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/04/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Boyne Island	ABRQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Cairns	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 27/11/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Cairns East	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/05/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Cairns IBL	TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/08/2004	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Cairns North	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/05/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Capella	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 10/10/2008	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Charters Towers	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/02/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Crediton IBL	STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 30/10/2009	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Darling Downs	ABDQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/01/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Dysart	ABMQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2008	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Eidsvold	ABQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Emerald	ABEQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/07/2008	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Gladstone East	ABRQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Gladstone West	ABRQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Goondiwindi	ABGQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/10/2010	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Herberton	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 19/11/2010	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Hervey Bay	ABWQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mackay	ABMQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 13/12/2004	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mareeba	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 19/02/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Middlemount	ABMQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 25/10/2010	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Miles	ABMSQ,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 8/12/2008	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Miriam Vale/Bororen	ABWQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Monto	ABWQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 18/02/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Moranbah	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2008	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mossman	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 19/02/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Moura	ABQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Conv. by 19/04/2011	Other services to be implemented by broadcasters as gapfillers/retransmission conversions
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Murgon	ABDQ,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/12/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Port Douglas	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 19/02/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Proserpine	ABMQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 28/09/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Ravenshoe	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 24/10/2010	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Redlynch	ABNQ,SBS		All broadcaster required services on-air	Conv. by 17/05/2011	Other services to be implemented by broadcasters as gapfillers/retransmission conversions
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Rockhampton	ABRQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 19/11/2003	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Rockhampton East	ABRQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/03/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Shute Harbour	ABQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 30/04/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Southern Downs	ABSQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 30/04/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Springsure	ABSEQ,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Conv. by 1/12/2011	Other services to be implemented by broadcasters as gapfillers/RT conversions
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Texas	ABSQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/10/2010	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Theodore	ABQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/05/2006	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Toowoomba	ABSQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 12/02/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Townsville	ABTQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 28/05/2004	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Townsville North	ABTQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/01/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Tully	ABNQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/08/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Wangetti	ABNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/10/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Warwick	ABSQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 23/10/2007	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Wide Bay	ABWQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 31/08/2004	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Yeppoon	ABRQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ,TNQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/12/2005	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Ballard			Not expected to be required in digital	N/A	Digital coverage likely to be provided from an alternative site
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Chinchilla			Not expected to be required in digital	N/A	Digital coverage likely to be provided from an alternative site
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Smithfield Heights			Not expected to be required in digital	N/A	Digital coverage likely to be provided from an alternative site
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Trinity Beach			Not expected to be required in digital	N/A	Digital coverage likely to be provided from an alternative site

REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Atherton	SBS	ABNQ,STQ,RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Cardwell	STQ	RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Clermont	ABCTQ,SBS,STQ,RTQ	TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Collinsville	ABQ,SBS,STQ	RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Glenden	STQ,RTQ	TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	Other services to be implemented by council as retransmission conversions
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Gordonvale	ABNQ,SBS	STQ,RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mission Beach	ABNQ,SBS	STQ,RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 31/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Moranbah Town	ABQ,SBS	STQ,RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 31/03/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Nebo	ABMQ,SBS,STQ	RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 5/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Stuart	ABTQ,SBS,STQ	RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Tara	ABDQ	STQ,RTQ,TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 6/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Tieri	SBS,STQ,RTQ	TNQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by 1/12/2011	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Injune	ABQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/08/2009	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Quilpie	ABQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 1/07/2009	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Richmond	ABRDQ		All broadcaster required services on-air	Since 28/08/2009	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Alpha		ABAQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Aramac		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Augathella		ABAAQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Bedourie		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Birdsville		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Boulia		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Camooweal		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Coen		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Corfield		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Croydon		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Dimbulah		ABNQ,SBS	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Dirranbandi		ABDIQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by 1/07/2011	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Georgetown		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Greenvale		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Isisford		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Jericho		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Julia Creek		ABJQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Karumba		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Lakeland		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Laura		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Meandarra		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Morven		ABMNQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Mount Garnet		ABNQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Mount Molloy		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Muttaburra		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Normanton		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Pentland		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Surat		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by 1/07/2011	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Tambo		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by 1/07/2011	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Taroom		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Thursday Island		ABQ,QQQ,IMP,CDT	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Wandoan		ABQ	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by 1/07/2011	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Weipa		ABQ,QQQ,IMP,CDT	No broadcaster required services have yet commenced	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Barcaldine	ABBQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Blackall	ABBLQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Charleville	ABCEQ,SBS	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Cloncurry	ABCLQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Cooktown	ABQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Cunnamulla	ABCAQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Hughenden	ABHQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Longreach	ABLQ,SBS	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Mitchell	ABMLQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Mount Isa	ABIQ,SBS	ITQ,IMP,IDQ	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Roma	ABRAQ,SBS	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	St George	ABSGQ,SBS	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Winton	ABWNQ	QQQ,IMP,CDT	Some broadcaster required services on-air and some still to commence	Conv. by TBA	

Self -Help retransmission services to be converted to digital

Category	Licence Area	Area Served	Digital services On Air	Digital service still to be	Status	Rollout dates	Comments
METRO	BRISBANE	Canungra	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	
METRO	BRISBANE	Conondale	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	In the Brisbane licence area area but being converted by RBA for the Sunshine coast area
METRO	BRISBANE	Kooralbyn	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Bell	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	Commercial services being converted by local council
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Redlynch	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 17/05/2011	
REGIONAL	BRISBANE	Rathdowney	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Springsure	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	SBS converting their self help all others on air in digital
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Agnes Water	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 18/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Cooloola Cove (Tin Can Bay)	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 11/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Crows Nest	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 20/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Flame Tree & Jubilee Pocket	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 6/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Goldsborough Valley (Little Mulgrave	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 12/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mount Morgan	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 12/05/2011	
REMOTE	REMOTE C&E	Longreach	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	

New gap fillers to be established in digital

Category	Licence Area	Area Served	Digital services On Air	Digital service still to be	Status	Rollout dates	Comments
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Moura	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 19/04/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mapleton	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Mundubbera	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 9/04/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Nanango	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 23/04/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Peregian Beach	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Point Arkwright	Not available	Not available		Conv. by TBA	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Rainbow Beach	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 23/04/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Sarina Beaches	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 3/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Tin Can Bay	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 7/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Toowoomba East	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 02/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Toowoomba South	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 03/05/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Wonga Beach	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 10/06/2011	
REGIONAL	REGIONAL QLD	Yarraman	Not available	Not available		Conv. by 14/05/2011	

Broadcaster Call Signs

Call sign	Licensee	On Air ID
BTQ	Channel Seven Brisbane Pty Ltd	Seven
CDT	Central Digital Television Pty Ltd	
IMP	Imparja Television Pty Ltd	Imparja Television
IDQ	Central Digital Television Pty Ltd	
ITQ	Regional Television Pty Ltd	Seven Central
NBN	NBN Ltd	Nine
NEN	Prime Television (Northern) Pty Ltd	Prime
NRN	Northern Rivers Television Pty Ltd	Southern Cross TEN
QQQ	Regional Television Pty Ltd	Southern Cross Central
QTQ	Queensland Television Ltd	Nine
RTQ	WIN Television QLD Pty Ltd	WIN Television
STQ	Channel Seven Queensland Pty Ltd	Seven Central
TNQ	Regional Television Pty Ltd	Southern Cross TEN
TVQ	Network TEN (Brisbane) Pty Ltd	Ten

Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Broadcasting Legislation Amendment (Digital Dividend and Other Measures) Bill 2011

Answers Questions on Notice

Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy Portfolio

Question No: 5

Hansard Ref: EC36

Topic: SATELLITE SUBSIDY SCHEME AND RENTAL ACCOMMODATION

Senator Cameron asked:

How does the Satellite Subsidy Scheme work in relation to rental accommodation?

Answer:

For a Satellite Subsidy Scheme (SSS) eligible address, the *homeowner*, *landlord* or *tenant* are able to apply for SSS. If both *landlord* and *tenant* apply, then the landlord is registered and the tenant rejected (and advised).

Tenants applying for the scheme are requested to provide their landlord's written permission on the day of install. The contracted installer will check this permission.

If Councils are concerned about tenants moving away, then the Department can work with Councils to advise all landlords they should opt-in themselves where feasible (and naturally also pay the $200 copayment).

In that case, landlords are also encouraged to put the VAST set top box on the rental household inventory, like other household fixtures and furniture, as part of standard tenancy arrangements.

If the landlord does not opt-in in a timely manner, then SSS can revert to the tenant if they have also applied.

There is usually a 3-4 week lag between the opt-in and the day of install, while installations are booked with the householder and locally batched by the master contactor.

Councils can also opt-in themselves (in bulk) if they are the landlords – e.g. Council-owned Rental Housing.