



THE GOVERNMENT OF NORFOLK ISLAND

MEDIA RELEASE

Digital television opens up new options for Norfolk Islanders

Norfolk Island Minister for Finance Neville Christian said today that digital television transmission has now been fully tested and implemented, opening up opportunities for better quality reception and a range of new free-to-air services for all residents of the Island.

Mr Christian thanked all of the technical staff at Norfolk Telecom and in particular their consultant Gary Summerscales who had worked together to implement digital television services. He said that digital television has clearer picture and sound with more available programmes than pre-existing free-to-air television.

“Digital television is a free service offered by Norfolk Telecom to the whole community on behalf of the Norfolk Island Government” Mr Christian said. “If you are currently able to receive a watchable SBS television signal then the digital television signal should be of a level that allows you to receive high quality digital television”.

Digital television is received with a compatible set top box or digital television tuner and television antenna. A set top box is quite affordable and can be easily connected without any technical help. Digital television reception pixelates on weak reception and can be improved with a UHF compatible antenna and booster amplifier. For cost and technical reasons two international CCIR channels or multiplexes are used.

Mr Christian said that the digital channel spacing in Norfolk Island is 8MHz rather than 7MHz which is used only in Australia. Australia planned to adopt 8 MHz channels in the near future. This means some products sourced from Australia have firmware that allows only tuning of 7 MHz channels on the UHF band. Viewers need to check before purchasing a digital television or set top box that it is capable of receiving the 8 MHz signal.

Currently the Samsung and Sony DVB television sets, and Strong set top boxes have been tested and can be purchased locally. Products from New Zealand may work in Norfolk Island although New Zealand uses MPEG4 video format rather than MPEG2

as used in Norfolk Island and Australia, some backward compatibility may be possible with the decoder chips.

The Minister said that he had been advised that for those prepared to source their own products, purchasers should check that a country other than Australia can be selected in the setup menu or a manual input of centre frequency with a bandwidth of 8MHz can be selected.

The tuning parameters in Norfolk Island are:

Mux 1 (multiplex) 506,000 kHz CH25 UHF CCIR 8MHz bandwidth
Mux 2 562,000 kHz CH32 UHF CCIR 8MHz bandwidth

Digital television programmes now available are:

Mux 1: ABCHD (high definition)

ABC1

ABC2

Dig Jazz radio

Dig radio

Mux 2: Central Seven

Imparja

SBS1

SBS2

Further information on digital television in Norfolk Island is available from Norfolk Telecom.

Neville Christian
Minister for Finance

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