

Media Release

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Digital Productivity

Regional and remote WA: only 4 months to go before the switch to Digital-only TV

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy today announced that there are only four months remaining before regional and remote Western Australia switches to digital-only free-to-air TV.

"On 25 June 2013 analog TV signals will be switched off across regional and remote Western Australia and free-to-air TV will be broadcast in digital-only," Senator Conroy said.

"You don't need to wait until the last minute to convert to digital TV. Converting now will give you access to all 17 digital television channels, giving you a wider choice of programs to watch, and better quality picture and sound.

"With only four months left before the switchover, the latest digital tracker survey shows 82 per cent of households across regional and remote Western Australia have already converted to digital TV.

"If you have already made the switch to digital TV it's a good time to make sure your family and friends are digital ready before analog TV is switched off on 25 June 2013.

"Making the switch to digital is straightforward. You can either connect a set-top box or digital TV recorder to an existing analog TV or upgrade to a digital TV, which has a built-in digital tuner."

Viewers watching TV via the Aurora satellite service should also be aware that this service will switch off on 25 June 2013. Aurora viewers who cannot receive terrestrial coverage from a local terrestrial transmitter will need to upgrade to the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service.

The VAST service is available throughout WA to anyone who cannot receive terrestrial coverage from a local transmitter. The VAST service provides the full range of 17 digital channels via satellite.

Practical assistance is still available to help people get ready for digital-only free-to-air TV.

"The Household Assistance Scheme and the Satellite Subsidy Scheme are both open and I encourage eligible people to apply now so they don't lose access to free-to-air TV services after 25 June 2013.

"The HAS and the SSS provides practical help to eligible households to make the switch to digital TV. Through these schemes, a high definition set top box is supplied and installed, and there is a demonstration on how to use the equipment. Both schemes also provide in-home support for 12 months and, where necessary, antennas, cabling or satellite equipment are also upgraded."

To find out more about digital switchover, including how to access local help and information about assistance schemes, visit www.digitalready.gov.au or call the Digital Ready Information Line on **1800 20 10 13**.

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Digital Ready Information Line – 1800 20 10 13**