AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

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 has 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.

Who can access the Central and Eastern 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.

Generally, viewers can apply for the VAST service six months before switchover in their area. However, viewers who receive poor or no coverage of free-to-air commercial TV services at their address may be able to access VAST earlier than the six months before switchover. More information about early access to VAST is available from the Australian Communication and Media Authority's website on the out-of-area reception page.

Viewers who currently rely on the existing Aurora service can apply for the Central and Eastern VAST service now.

How do I access the VAST service?

Applications to receive the VAST service can be made by entering your full address into at *mySwitch* at **www.digitalready.gov.au,** and following the links to the 'Satellite Eligibility' tab. You can also apply by calling the Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 (8am to Midnight AEST).

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. It features channels

carrying programs sourced from Southern Cross Seven, Imparja Nine and the Ten network, and the main national broadcaster services, ABC1 and SBS ONE, together with digital SD channels ABC2, ABC3, SBS TWO, 7TWO, GO!, and Eleven, and the high definition channels ABC News 24 HD, SBS HD, 7mate (Seven HD), GEM (Nine HD), and ONE HD (Ten HD).

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**	**Local News**	**NBN News**	**PRIME News**
401 Cairns, Townsville	**410** Qld, NT, NSW, Victoria	**412** Cairns, Townsville	**415** Gold Coast, Lismore	**418** NSW North Coast, Tamworth
402 Mackay, Rockhampton	**411** Tasmania, Spencer Gulf & Broken Hill	**413** Mackay, Rockhampton	**416** Coffs Harbour, Tamworth	**419** NSW & Victoria
403 Bundaberg, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba		**414** Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast	**417** Newcastle, Central Coast	**420** Orange, Wagga Wagga, Albury
404 Orange, Wagga Wagga				
405 Wollongong, Canberra				
406 Albury, Gippsland				
407 Bendigo, Shepparton				
408 Ballarat, Mildura				

409 Tasmania, Mt Gambier, 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.

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.

The local news services may contain regional advertising as broadcast terrestrially in the relevant regional area.

27/07/2015. VAST Aministration advise that a full TV Guide is now available online.
Go to www.sattvguide.com.au