



Digital news

worse for viewers in the area who have high gain antenna systems to receive fortuitous reception of Adelaide television services. While viewers do not need to take their antenna systems down, viewers should make sure that their antenna systems for reception of the Cowell and Adelaide services are adequately isolated or the Adelaide antenna system is disconnected for interference free reception of the local services.

The potential for interference at Cowell was identified by the ABA during the digital channel planning process for Adelaide, and several solutions were proposed which were dependent on the extent of the interference. In light of recent events, the ABA is considering an increase in power of the Cowell services by a factor of ten times to overcome the interference to ensure that viewers in the Cowell area receive adequate analog services.

This increase in power will require the broadcasters to undertake some transmission site work over the next few months. Both the broadcasters in Cowell, ABC and Spencer Gulf Telecasters (GTS) do not consider that a power reduction of the Adelaide digital broadcasts is warranted at this stage.

Keith, South Australia

Another area experiencing interference from digital television services is Keith, South Australia, where viewers have reported interference to the WIN (SES) service operating on channel 33. This interference is partly the result of the new Adelaide digital television service operated by SBS being co-channelled with the Keith WIN service on channel 33, and partly due to Keith viewers pointing their antennas towards Adelaide, making their own

reception more susceptible to interference than would otherwise be the case.

The ABA is working with both WIN and SBS to resolve the problem and improve the reception of the WIN analog service in Keith. The solution is simple but temporary in nature — WIN will be issued with a test transmission licence to operate on channel 35. A permanent channel for the WIN service will be planned as part of the ABA planning for the area (including the allocation of channels for digital television services), which will be completed by the end of 2001.

What to do if you experience interference?

Resolution of interference issues is an ongoing process and may require viewers to retune their equipment or seek technical assistance from the Interference Hotline. Viewers should report television interference to the Interference Hotline on 1800 016 009 or their local broadcaster. In areas where viewers experience poor reception to ABC and SBS services, the ABA advises viewers to contact the ABC Reception Advice Line on 1300 139 994 (for the cost of a local call); or the SBS on Freecall 1800 500 727.

The ABA will continue to ensure that the broadcasting industry assists viewers with resolving interference problems. The preservation of the current analog reception environment is of paramount concern for the ABA, and to this end, the ABA has developed an Interference Management Scheme which outlines digital licensees' responsibilities regarding interference to analog television transmissions caused by digital transmissions. Further information can be found at www.aba.gov.au.

Solutions to interference

Problem

Interference

Co-channel interference in Eden

Poor reception to ABC and SBS services

who to call

Interference Hotline
or local broadcaster
or retune VCR

local broadcaster (who will inform the ABA and together work out a solution)

ABC Reception Advice Line

SBS

number

1800 016 009
in the White Pages

in the White Pages

1300 139 994 (for the cost of a local call)

Freecall 1800 500 727

