

Digital Terrestrial Television and Current Analog TV Reception – a Guide for the Nowra, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay & Narooma Areas

This brochure has been prepared by all local commercial television stations, the ABC and SBS to assist television viewers in the South Coast areas of Southern NSW

Q1. What channels have been allocated to digital terrestrial television transmissions?

A. The channel allocations for all local digital services from Nowra North, Ulladulla, Batemans Bay and Narooma are outlined in the table below. Southern Cross TEN digital services from Nowra North Commenced 11th November, Batemans Bay 15th, Narooma 19th November and Ulladulla is expected to begin transmission in mid December.

Digital Channel Allocations

STATIONS	ABC	SBS	WIN	SC10 (CTC)	Prime (CBN)
Nowra North (Cambewarra Lookout)	66	63	34	40	43
Ulladulla (Little Forest Trig)	28	31	52	46	49
Batemans Bay (Mt. Wandera)	9A	7	10	63	58
Narooma (Buckeridge Lookout)	56	53	59	62	65

Q2. Could the new digital terrestrial television transmissions affect reception of existing analog television services? – these are listed in the table below
Analog Channel Allocations

STATIONS	ABC	SBS	WIN	SC10 (CTC)	Prime (CBN)
Nowra (Cambewarra Lookout)	32	29	35	41	44
Ulladulla (Little Forest Trig)	33	30	42	45	48
Batemans Bay (Mt. Wandera)	9	55	11	61	64
Narooma (Buckeridge Lookout)	0	47	3	41	44

- A.** In the case of all of the listed channel allocations, little interference to any analog service is expected when the various digital services begin transmission. However as some of the new digital channels are allocated adjacent to existing analog channels, there is a remote possibility that analog services may experience “adjacent channel interference” from the new digital transmissions. Ulladulla is one such possibility as the new digital channel (CH46) is allocated upper adjacent to the existing analog channel (CH45) Whilst it is very unlikely that adjacent channel interference will occur, there is a slight possibility that the new digital service may affect the analog channel sound on some receivers. In order to minimize this possibility, the digital channel has been deliberately offset by +125kHz.

While theoretically there is the potential for adjacent channel interference to occur, experience in other Coverage Areas where digital television has begun and similar channel allocations exist, indicates that very few homes in the Nowra to Narooma district are likely to experience this problem. If, however such interference is experienced after the relevant digital services begin, go to **Q4** and **Q6** for assistance.

Q3. If the interference I am experiencing occurs on ALL channels or when I replay tapes from VCR what should I do? (If interference is only to some channels go to Q4.)

- A.** First establish what might be the source of the interference.

Step a. Check to see if the interference is coming from some local source. It could come from a nearby motor, computer, mobile phone or other electrical or electronic device or a loose cable or a damaged antenna.

Check that none of these potential sources of interference are affecting your reception and attend to them if necessary.

Step b. Make sure that your VCR is not faulty. To check this, disconnect the TV antenna cable (not the Pay-TV cable, if present) from the wall socket (while following the manufacturer’s guidelines on safety), and then play a pre-recorded video cassette.

If it plays back satisfactorily, then your VCR is OK and the problem is probably due to interference from an external source.

If it does not play back satisfactorily, then your VCR needs attention and you should follow the manufacturer’s instructions if it is still under warranty, or otherwise call a service organisation.

Now reconnect your TV antenna cable at the wall socket.

Step c. Turn off your VCR and tune in the local stations on your television set. The interference should disappear

If the interference is still present on ALL channels, then your TV needs attention and you should follow the manufacturer's instructions if it is still under warranty, or otherwise call a service organisation.

If the interference disappears, it means it was probably caused by the new local digital services and you will need to change your current VCR to the TV set connection (Go straight to **Q5.**).

Many people set their TV to "video" and change channels using the remote control on the VCR or Pay-TV set top box. In these cases, the new digital service from Mt Moombil may be using the same channel as the VCR or set top box do to "transmit" signals to the TV set.

Q4. If the interference I am experiencing is not on all channels what should I do?

A. Again, it is important to establish what might be the source of the interference.

Step a. Check to see if the interference is coming from some local source. Carry out the same checks described in **step a** in the answer to **Q3**.

Step b. If possible retrieve the manual for your television set and VCR (or try to obtain one from your local retailer or manufacturer) and see if altering the fine tuning control, reduces or removes the interference.

Q5. If I have identified that the interference is occurring to the output channel of my VCR (through steps a, b and c of Q3.) what can I do to help myself?

A. You have three major options:

Option 1. Use the A/V connections

Connect your television to the VCR through the audio and video (A/V) connections and watch video cassettes with the TV in "video mode" rather than "TV mode". This is the simplest and best solution and it gives you better picture quality.

The A/V connections are sockets (generally white, red and yellow) on the back or front of the equipment which are usually marked "VIDEO OUT" and "AUDIO OUT" on a VCR and as "VIDEO IN" and "AUDIO IN" on a television set.

Check your VCR and television set manuals for details on connecting the equipment. A/V Cables are readily available from electrical retailers.

If this connection is possible with your VCR you do not need to do any more.

Do not however disconnect the current single lead VCR antenna “out” to TV set antenna “in” connection.

If you require more details on how to carry out option 1 speak to your local TV retailer, or send a self addressed stamped envelope to “Better Connected” PO Box 563 Mosman 2088 (asking for the “AV Leaflet”), or view a copy of the AV leaflet on www.dba.org.au (the web site of Digital Broadcasting Australia click on city and regional interference guides).

However, not every TV has A/V connections. If yours does not see Option 2.

Option 2. Retune your VCR output channel

Warning

Follow the manufacturer’s guidelines at all times.

Do not open the case of your VCR or television set, or you may receive an electric shock.

If your television set or VCR does not have A/V connections, you can retune the output channel of your VCR to a channel where there is no interference. This may involve trying several channels before you find one that is not being used locally.

Follow these steps:

Step a. Consult your VCR manual and follow the instructions on how to retune the output channel of your VCR (making sure to follow all safety guidelines). It will either be by using:

- A menu system, appearing either on-screen (using the remote control) or by pressing buttons on the VCR front panel display or
- A small tuning screw in the back of the VCR (generally earlier model VCRs).

Step b. After changing your VCR’s output channel, you may need to retune your television set to receive the new frequency of the signal from the VCR.

To retune your TV, consult your TV manual for instructions (making sure to follow all safety guidelines). Retuning will probably involve using the TV’s “channel set up” function to scan the UHF channels on the TV set to find the new VCR signal. Some TVs have a simple automated process for carrying out channel set up.

Option 3. Temporary solutions – you can temporarily remove the interference and still enjoy your TV and VCR!

Even if you have not got AV cords or your VCR needs retuning but you cannot do it immediately, it should not stop you from having interference free use of your TV and VCR:

- You can still watch TV – just turn your VCR off and use the TV set to tune channels as normal.
- You can still play video cassettes – just unplug the antenna from the back of the VCR when you do it.

Q6. If the advice in this brochure does not help me to resolve my interference problems what should I do and who should I ring?

A. If you are in this situation it is important that you follow the steps below:

Step 1. Keep a close record of when the interference problems are occurring (including the date and approximate time and duration of interference).

Step 2. Check with neighbours to see if they are experiencing the same problems for the same duration at the same times.

Step 3. Before calling a local TV service agent it would be worthwhile making a record of the following:

- Model and make of your television set/s and when purchased;
- Model and make of your VCR/s and when purchased;
- Whether you have an external or internal antenna and when installed;
- If you have an external antenna, how many television sets in your house are fed from it?
- Whether you have some device which is associated with your external aerial which amplifies the available signal strength;
- What are the television services you normally watch e.g. the local services from Mt Moombil or those emanating from Bruxner Point East for Coffs Harbour or for other northern NSW towns such as Taree or Lismore/Ballina;
- As clearly as possible a description of the form the interference is taking;

Step 4. Having collected the above information you should ring your local TV service agent who will be assisted if you have handy all the information outlined in **step 3** above.

Q7. What should I do if I am suffering interference to my Pay-TV channels?

A. Contact your Pay-TV service provider.
