

Glen Marshall

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John Forrest MP
Federal Member for Mallee
PO Box 487
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16 May 2005

Dear John,

Low uptake of digital TV prompts review.

I refer to the article, headlined above, printed on page 8 of the *House of Representatives Magazine* – **ABOUT THE HOUSE**, Issue 23, May 2005.

I no longer have E-mail, or Internet facilities, in my home so I am unable to communicate with the relevant committee by the electronic links provided: see ABOUT THE HOUSE, page 9.

There is much to be desired in the use of digitalized TV. The reviewing Committee will need to promulgate their recommendations regarding options very clearly. Cost to the user is important. Other important aspects are:

- ❖ Is a significant proportion of Australian citizens (vitality) interested in high definition TV? Interference; from power lines and industrial and household machinery will not be eliminated entirely.
- ❖ Surround sound appeals to some people. I have no desire to have 'surround sound'. I would not opt to install surround sound. The **cost** of digital TV sets would, very likely, include facility for surround sound. The review committee might recommend that less expensive digital TV sets be available, as options, without reducing digital advantages.
- ❖ The above remarks apply to 'multi-camera views', 'closed captioning', 'electronic programme guides' and other digital advantages.
- ❖ The committee will need to ensure that areas outside reception footprints are well publicised **before** people go to the expense of a change over from analogue to digital TV for private use.

Before I wrote this letter, I asked neighbours what they thought about digital TV – I gained a distinct impression that they had not given the matter any thought.

Public disinterest, lack of knowledge about options and or **local** availability of digital TV reception, in year 2008, and other appropriate information must be addressed by the review committee and their findings clearly promulgated.

I am hoping that you will pass to the review committee the brief remarks given above.

Yours sincerely,

Glen Marshall

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