

June 22 2005

Dear Ms Kelly,

I am writing to advise you and your committee about why many people are not taking up digital television.

Here on the Central Coast of New South Wales we have a very wide range of television and radio reception. Where I live in Terrigal we have had an investigation carried out by the ACA which clearly stated that this locality is bordering on a Band 3 / Band 4 reception. Band 4 is the worst reception. I have been involved in trying to have something done about it but there has been no success. Next door neighbours here have tried various means to improve or even receive TV reception and the results are a wide range of constant fluctuations and drop out and interference.

We had been told that digital would improve the reception. I purchased a digital box (Sony) and find I often have to go back to analogue reception with its interference and dropouts because it is superior to the digital reception more often than not - on a daily basis.

I have been waiting on a response from the ACA since February 2005 and recently, about 3 weeks ago, contacted them again to be told the situation re television reception had been passed on to the engineers again. There is still no response at all.

With the lack of response and obvious lack of interest in even looking at the situation it should be very obvious to your committee that there is one very clear reason for the Australian community NOT to take up digital television broadcasting.

This a very brief submission as it is after the close of submissions but needs to be considered as part of the total picture. Further information can be obtained including copies of emails since the recent attempts have been made by me to have something done for the community in this area of Terrigal, New South Wales. It should also be noted we are within a 50 km radius of Sydney (as the crow flies) yet we have exceeding poor and unreliable television (and radio) reception.

I look forward to hearing from the committee re this correspondence.