

*For some time I have been trying to obtain clear detailed overall Information on the coverage of digital TV in Australia currently and the comprehensive plans for raising it to the necessary levels for general close down of analogue. This includes contacting the major free to air stations who have said they don't have any figures on this point. This seems strange since they were so strong in their support for the change to digital and on that basis it would be in their commercial interest as well as their responsibility to ensure the best practical digital coverage.*

*No transmission system is perfect and provision needs to be made for the areas that for one reason or another will find digital reception difficult to impossible. These areas can be dealt with via adequate planning and infrastructure. The ability to boost digital signals after general analogue close down (without interfering with analogue as happens currently) will also affect the coverage issue.*

*There are no insurmountable technical problems involved. It is simply a question of working out our coverage situation now, and implementing what is necessary to get it to the levels that are required for general analogue close down. If there is such a plan in existence I would like to be advised on how to find it.*

*On the basis that there is no such plan and if the current inaction continues we will have the same objections to closing down analogue at some future time such as 2012 as we have now.*

*Best Regards,*

*Alex Encel*