



OFFICE OF SENATOR THE HON STEPHEN CONROY

MINISTER FOR BROADBAND, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER ON DIGITAL PRODUCTIVITY
DEPUTY LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE

MEDIA RELEASE

Far North Queensland – it's time to get ready for Digital TV

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy today urged households in Far North Queensland to get ready for the historic transition to digital-only free-to-air television on 6 December.

“In exactly one month’s time the way television is broadcast across regional Queensland will change forever. And we want to make sure each and every household is ready for this important milestone,” Senator Conroy said.

“I encourage residents living in the Far North Queensland region – including households in Cairns, Port Douglas and Innisfail – to get digital ready right now so you can continue watching all your favourite programs and discover many more now and into the future”.

Digital TV will not only provide a better picture, sound quality and wider variety of channels but also close the gap for many rural and regional viewers who will now be able to enjoy access to the same number of channels as available in city centres.

The Australian Government understands that some people may find it difficult to make the switch to digital TV.

“With only 30 days to go it is important to help those in need, so if you've already switched to digital TV, I urge you to help your friends and family make the switch so that they can also enjoy all the benefits of digital TV,” Senator Conroy said.

The Government’s Households Assistance Scheme (HAS) is also continuing to lend a hand to eligible households.

“HAS is available until 25 January 2012 for eligible residents in Far North Queensland who receive a full-rate pension including the Age Pension, Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment, Department of Veterans' Affairs Service Pension or Income Support Supplement, and who need some extra practical help to switch to digital TV,” Senator Conroy said.

“More than 23,000 households have already been assisted through HAS in the regional Queensland switchover region, so if you think you are - or know someone who might be - eligible please call Centrelink on 1800 556 443.”

“There are a number of community based and online resources available to Far North Queensland residents to assist them with making the switch to digital TV.

For more information: www.digitalready.gov.au and Digital Ready Information Line on 1800 20 10 13 for information on services and support, information for property owners, managers and renters as well as contact information for Endorsed Antenna Installers, Digital Advisors and your local Digital Liaison Officer, Mr Simon Grant.

Date: 6 November 2011

Contact: Lyaal Johnson 0408 258 457