

VAST

(Viewer Access Satellite Television)

Satellite Digital TV.

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THE WANDERING TEWS



Update for this issue.

Western Australia now has access to VAST. See sect 'Am I eligible for VAST'.

Web sites to check

www.myvast.com.au For information about and activation of VAST.

<http://www.mysattv.com.au/maps/Remote%20Central%20And%20Eastern%20License%20Area.pdf> for a map of coverage area for central and Eastern Aust. VAST coverage.

<http://www.mysattv.com.au/travellers.aspx> for activation form for travellers.

VAST Satellite Digital TV.

(Viewer Access Satellite Television)

The Australian Government is funding a new satellite service to provide digital television to viewers in Australia who are unable to receive terrestrial television services. This new service is called VAST (Viewer Access Satellite Television).

I have, as of 21/01/2001, obtained access to the VAST system under the category of a traveller and am now enjoying viewing all the digital channels available in any capital city.

The procedure I used to obtain access is as follows: (As is explained further in this document).

1. Make a purchase of the dedicated Decoder.
 2. Carefully read the instructions with the Decoder.
 - a. You must already have the dish tuned into Optus C1, as this Decoder will not give any indication of signal levels until after signal detection and channel scanning, so a tuning meter must be used.
 - b. LNB settings must be checked.
 3. All cable connections were made to the Decoder, and the set was powered on.
 - a. At this stage the decoder automatically searched and tuned in all allowable channels.
 - b. All ABC and SBS channel in all time zones in Australia were now watchable.
 4. Apply for activation of your VAST Services card by visiting www.mysattv.com.au , I applied for a travellers connection in SA.
 5. After I submitted the online application for SA area, as this is where we would be travelling, a download from the satellite commenced, I then went out for dinner and when I returned all digital channels for SA were activated and watchable.
 6. I have since moved to Northern Territory and have submitted another online form with the request to reactivate me for NT instead of SA, and the request was granted at their earliest convenience.
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The following information has been obtained from the web site below and is a direct copy of the same. <http://www.mysattv.com.au/>, so if the URL's included don't work go directly to the web site.

The content on the web site is constantly being updated so what I have printed below might vary slightly between updates of this document.

This web site gives information on eligibility and activation details for VAST TV.

For fellow travellers category 4 under 'Am I eligible for VAST' gives details for connection to VAST for travellers. (The URL provided at this section is the only area travellers need to go, other eligibility URL's need not be used for travellers).

Receivers can be purchased from several retailers, I used <http://www.satplus.com.au/>

Digital TV from Satellite - The New VAST Platform

Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) will provide digital television to viewers in remote areas of Australia who currently rely on analogue services from the Optus Aurora platform; as well as viewers who are unable to receive digital TV through their normal antenna because of issues relating to local interference, terrain or distance from the transmitter in their area.

Am I eligible to get the VAST service?

The VAST service can now be accessed by eligible viewers in all states.

ABC and **SBS** services are available now without restriction in all locations outside of WA.

Access to **Commercial TV** services is subject to an eligibility test that takes into account commercial television licence areas and availability of conventional terrestrial television services at your location.

There are five categories of viewers eligible to access **Commercial TV** on VAST

1. **Viewers in the Remote Central & Eastern Australia Licence Area:** [View Map](#)
2. **Current Satellite Viewers outside the Remote Central & Eastern Licence Area:** these viewers currently watch satellite television and have special permission ("out of area" approval) for the existing "analogue" Aurora satellite services because they are in a television black spot
3. **Viewers in regional and metropolitan areas** served by normal terrestrial TV services but who are unable to receive TV after [digital switchover](#). As digital switchover rolls out across Australia, regional and metropolitan viewers who will not be able to receive television after switchover can apply for VAST access **6 months prior to switchover**. [More information here](#)
4. **Travellers:** people travelling in caravans or motor homes in Remote Central and Eastern Australia are eligible to apply for temporary access to Commercial TV on VAST. [Click Here for Travellers Application](#)
5. **Western Australia:** Access to all the channels on the VAST service are not currently available in **Western Australia**. However, an interim service is currently being rolled out for those in eligible areas of Regional and Remote Western Australia.

If you are not eligible to receive commercial TV services on VAST, you are still able to receive **ABC** and **SBS** in all states. For more information on how to access ABC and SBS only please [Click Here](#)

How do I get access to VAST?

To receive VAST you require an approved VAST set top box and satellite dish. Access to the service is controlled by a smart card which is supplied with the set top box. To access VAST you will need to register your details including your address, reception location and smart card number.

If you want to check your eligibility for VAST or register your VAST set top box please click on the link below. This is an automated on-line process that will give you information about terrestrial digital TV services in your area as well as VAST service information. Follow these steps on the site to check eligibility or register your set top box.

1. ***Enter your address and post code in the search address field and click "Go"***
2. ***Your location will be marked by a pin on the map. If its not in the correct location drag it to the correct spot and click "Refresh"***
3. ***Select the "Satellite Eligibility" tab to display information about receiving VAST at your location***
4. ***If you have a VAST set top box and wish to register it, follow the prompts in the information window.***

For help with the general VAST application process [*Click Here*](#)

If you are currently an "Out of Area" Aurora satellite viewer and need help with the application process [*Click Here*](#)

[Yes - I would like to register or check my eligibility](#)

When is VAST going to be available in areas other than Remote Central & Eastern Australia?

Viewers who are eligible to access VAST services outside the Remote Central & Eastern licence area can do so from the following dates: [***Check If I Am Eligible***](#)

Region	Digital Switchover Date	VAST Access Available From
Mildura/Sunraysia	30 June 2010	Now
Regional SA & Broken Hill	15 December 2010	Now
Regional Victoria	5 May 2011	Now
Regional Queensland	Date TBA in Second Half 2011	6 Months before Switchover Date
Regional Southern NSW	Date TBA in First Half 2012	6 Months before Switchover Date
Regional Northern NSW	Date TBA in Second Half 2012	6 Months before Switchover Date
Tasmania	Date TBA in First Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Perth	Date TBA in First Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Brisbane & Gold Coast	Date TBA in First Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Melbourne	Date TBA in Second Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Adelaide	Date TBA in Second Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Sydney	Date TBA in Second Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Darwin	Date TBA in Second Half 2013	6 Months before Switchover Date
Remote Western Australia	Date TBA in Second Half 2013	TBA

What channels are available?

Southern Cross Media and Imparja are broadcasting the full range of digital commercial television channels in standard definition (with programming from the 7, 9 and 10 networks) and the high definition channels One HD, 7mate and GEM.

VAST also provides all the standard and high definition channels from ABC and SBS.

The local news content from regional broadcasters is also available on a dedicated local news channels exclusive to VAST.

What Equipment do I need

Anyone wishing to access VAST will need to purchase a VAST approved satellite set-top box and a satellite dish of at least 65cm diameter. Access to this new satellite service is managed by a smart card which is supplied with the satellite set top box. To access VAST you will need to register your details including your address, reception location and smart card number to enable access.

Satellite set-top boxes are now available from authorised distributors. Altech UEC are the initial supplier and distributor of these boxes. Sales or technical enquiries can be made directly to UEC by calling (02) 9425 5777 .

Where can I obtain further information about the new satellite and digital switchover?

The Government has established a national information telephone line and a website to provide advice and assistance to viewers in the transition to digital television. The *Digital Ready Information Line* operates seven days a week from 8.00 am to 10.00 pm (AEST) on free-call number 1800 20 10 13. The Digital Ready website may be accessed at <http://www.digitalready.gov.au>

For further information regarding *Government Subsidies*, please call **1800 20 10 13**

For *Registration and Activation of smartcards*, please call **1300 993 376**