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Free TV welcomes solution for regional digital TV blackspots

Free TV Australia today welcomed the Rudd government's announcement of measures to ensure that regional television viewers in digital blackspots will receive the full suite of digital television services after analogue switch-off.

The announcement includes an upgrade of digital terrestrial television services and a fully government-funded satellite solution for viewers living in digital blackspot areas.

Free TV CEO Julie Flynn said, "This is a big win for regional viewers who will lead the way in the transition to digital-only services.

"Broadcasters have worked closely with the government to provide certainty for viewers so that they will not be without their valued free-to-air television services after switch-off".

Flynn said, "Regional broadcasters in particular have undertaken extensive work to identify those areas where a digital terrestrial solution is viable. This means that the maximum number of viewers will simply need to purchase a high-definition set-top-box or integrated TV to receive all the new Freeview services."

Free TV broadcasters are pleased that the government has confirmed that it will fund a satellite service for those remaining areas which cannot receive terrestrial services.

At least 56 per cent of television households have already made the transition to digital and are enjoying the benefits of new services, better pictures and better sound - free to the viewer.

"Now regional viewers can be assured that they will be able to enjoy the same advantages regardless of where they live," said Flynn.

"Free TV will continue to work with the government to deliver a smooth transition to digital services for all Australian viewers," added Flynn.

For media enquiries please contact Julie Flynn on 0408 455 456.