

Media Release

Senator the Hon Stephen Conroy

Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Senate
Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on Digital Productivity

More ABC radio stations for rural and remote Australia

The Minister for Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy, Senator Stephen Conroy, today announced that people in rural and remote Australia can now listen to an expanded range of ABC radio services.

"This is great news for people living outside our major cities, who from today can listen to a wider range of ABC radio stations via the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) platform," Senator Conroy said.

"For the first time, people living outside our capital cities will be able to listen to the ABC's digital-only radio channels: Dig, ABC Country, ABC Jazz, ABC Digital Extra, ABC Grandstand and triple J Unearthed. There will also be two additional channels available to the ABC for use in emergencies.

"The VAST platform will deliver Tasmania Local Radio to listeners for the first time, and the ABC's Mt Isa Local Radio in regional Queensland.

"The Gillard Government has funded the ABC to ensure that Australians in regional, rural and remote areas will have access to an expanded range of ABC radio stations via VAST.

"The new ABC services, along with the existing SBS radio services, mean people will have access to more radio stations on VAST than they do on the Optus Aurora satellite service.

"This is another step that the Gillard Government is taking to close the gap in radio and TV services that has long existed between the cities and the bush.

"By the end of 2013, all Australians will have made the switch to digital television, meaning no matter where you live you will have access to the same number of TV channels."

The ABC's VAST radio services will be broadcast from the ABC's own transmission sites, and will be used for retransmission by self-help community groups and for people who have installed a VAST set-top-box in their home or caravan.

The Aurora satellite is due to be decommissioned along with analog TV at the end of 2013.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

ABC and SBS radio services on the Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) platform

ABC Local Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Radio NSW (Dubbo) • Regional Radio North QLD (Cairns) • Regional Radio South QLD (Longreach) • Regional Radio QLD (Toowoomba) • Regional Radio QLD (Mt Isa) • Regional Radio VIC (inc. Shepparton and Warrnambool) • Regional Radio SA (Port Pirie) • Regional Radio North WA (Karratha) • Regional Radio North WA (Broome) • Regional Radio South WA (Kalgoorlie) • Regional Radio North NT (Darwin) • Regional Radio South NT (Alice Springs) • Regional Radio Tasmania (Hobart or Launceston) 	13
ABC Radio National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RN QLD • RN NSW • RN VIC • RN SA • RN WA • RN NT • RN TAS 	7
ABC Classic FM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFM QLD • CFM NSW • CFM VIC • CFM SA • CFM WA • CFM NT 	6
ABC triple j	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JJJ QLD • JJJ South East • JJJ SA • JJJ WA • JJJ NT 	5
ABC NewsRadio (PNN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NewsRadio (PNN) 	1
ABC Digital audio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIG • DIG JAZZ • ABC Country • ABC Digital Extra • ABC Grandstand • triple j Unearthed 	6
ABC Metropolitan Local Radio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 702 Sydney • 774 Melbourne • 612 Brisbane • 891 Adelaide • 720 Perth 	5
ABC Emergency Channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Channel 1 • Emergency Channel 2 	2