Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Darwin Television Licence Area Plan
Digital Television Licensing Section
Australian Communications and Media Authority
PO Box 78
Belconnen ACT 2616

By email:
dtls@acma.gov.au

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Draft Darwin Television Licence Area Plan

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the following Australian Communications and Media Authority's (ACMA) documents:

1. Television Licence Area Plan (Darwin) 2012 (Draft)
3. Planning Data Darwin TV1 — June 2012

The ABC notes the following:

- The end of simulcast period for the Darwin licence area is 30 July 2013.
- All Darwin licence area digital television services are currently operating on or can roll out digital services on channels that do not need to restack.
- There is a change in polarity from horizontal to vertical at the nominal proposed site in Larrakeyah.
- The nominal maximum effective radiated power (ERP) is 200 W, which is 4 dB lower than what would be expected.
- The ABC Darwin DTV technical specification does not include a frequency offset. The ABC expects the current frequency offset be removed as part of the restack process.
- Channel 41 has been set aside for ABC in Batchelor for a funded self-help conversion.
The ABC has the following comments as feedback for further revisions of the documents:

- As the transmission trial from Cullen Bay will provide valuable coverage information from the alternative site, the final technical specifications for Darwin City should closely reflect the outcome and recommendation from the trial.

- In line with the ACMA planning guidelines, the ERP for Darwin City should be 500 W. Previous ABC field survey in Darwin identified some coverage reduction due to signal attenuation through dense foliage in the wet season. This higher ERP will minimise such impact.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any of the ABC's comments in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Mark Spurway
Head Transmission Network Services