



# TV Decommission Information Sheet

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on November 27th 2024, Council made the decision to decommission the TV retransmission service effective from 23 June 2026.

## **Why was this decision made?**

As outlined in the letter sent to all ratepayers who can access this service, it is becoming increasingly less and less economically viable to continue providing this service. All ratepayers are contributing to cover the cost of the service through their annual rates, and only a minority use the service. This service is only available to Wongan Hills townsite properties, therefore, there is a large number of ratepayers who do not even have the ability to access this service. The service has been experiencing more and more issues and the technology is becoming outdated. The service provider is based in Queensland and this also impacts service delivery if there is a physical issue that has to be addressed on-site. You may be aware that in mid-2024, the Shire of Koorda announced their decision to terminate this service due to similar issues.



### What does this mean for those who use this service?

This means that from 23 June 2026, the service will be terminated and will no longer work.

### Why 23 June 2026?

The Shire's retransmission licences with ACMA expire on 22 June 2026, so it was determined to be the best option, as it provides residents with 18-months notice as well as running until the licences expire.

### What are the options for those who use this service and want to watch tv?

#### 1. Internet based (streaming) services

If you have an internet connection and a TV which can be connected to the internet, you can watch most channels, including, but not limited to the below:

TV Application	Channels	Information
SBS Demand	SBS, Viceland, Food, World Movies, NITV, FIFA, World Watch, International Channels, Radio	<a href="https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/">https://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/</a>
10 Play	10, Bold Drama, Peach Comedy, Nickelodeon, 10 Sport	<a href="https://10play.com.au/">https://10play.com.au/</a>
9Now	Channel 9, 9Now, 9HD, Gem, Go!, Life, Rush, BBC	<a href="https://www.9now.com.au/">https://www.9now.com.au/</a>
7plus	Channel 7, 7flix, 7mate, 7two, 7now, 7Sport, 7Bravo	<a href="https://7plus.com.au/">https://7plus.com.au/</a>
ABC iview	ABC News, ABC Kids, ABC Entertains, ABC Family	<a href="https://iview.abc.net.au/">https://iview.abc.net.au/</a>

## 2. Satellite based service (VAST)

Known as Viewer Access Satellite TV (VAST), this service provides access to free-to-air TV or radio via satellite. It uses the Optus-10 and Optus D3 satellites.

VAST includes the full range of digital commercial television channels (with programming from the 7, 9 and 10 networks.) VAST also provides channels from ABC and SBS.

### What is required to access and watch VAST?

The main components required are:

#### 1. Set-top box (aka the receiver or decoder)

This box sits alongside your TV and is connected to the satellite dish via a wall plate. This receives the satellite transmission and connects to your TV so you can watch the available VAST channels. Example of the UEC DSD 5000 below.



Approximate cost: \$300 - \$350.

VAST certified set-top box (receiver/decoder) manufacturers:

Manufacturer	Contact/Information
NAS Australia (UEC)	Phone: 07 3015 8789 Email: <a href="mailto:uecsupport@nasaustralia.com.au">uecsupport@nasaustralia.com.au</a> Website: <a href="https://uec.com.au">https://uec.com.au</a>
SatKing	Phone: 03 9553 3399 Email: <a href="mailto:support@satking.com.au">support@satking.com.au</a> Website: <a href="http://www.satking.com.au">www.satking.com.au</a>

Wheatbelt Furniture and Homewares are currently selling the UEC DSD 5000 Satellite Receiver.

## 2. Satellite dish and dish mount

A satellite dish of at least 90cm is generally recommended for regional areas. The dish requires a roof/wall mount so that it can be attached. They come in different colours, predominantly black or white. Examples below.



Approximate cost: Dish = \$250 - \$300, Mount = \$100.

## 3. Low-noise block downconverter (aka LNB)

This small piece of equipment is the physical receiving device that is attached to the satellite dish. It converts the radio waves received by the satellite dish and sends them via the cable to the set-top box inside your house.

Some satellite dishes will come as a package deal and include the LNB or even the LNB and dish mount. Be sure to double-check whether the LNB and/or mount are included with the satellite dish first.

Example of LNB below.



Approximate cost: \$50 - \$100.

#### **4. Minor equipment to connect and install**

There is some additional minor pieces of equipment required to fully install and operate VAST systems. These include (but not limited to), coaxial cable to connect the dish to the wall plate, the wall plate, fly lead to connect from the wall plate to the set-top box, HDMI cable to connect from the set-top box to the TV (presuming the TV is HDMI enabled.)

Approximate cost: \$100.

#### **5. Installation**

Enquire with our local qualified suppliers.



Access to VAST is managed by a smart card which is supplied with the set-top box. To access VAST you will need to register details - <https://myswitch.digitalready.gov.au/>

#### **Where can I find more information on VAST?**

- MySatTV - <https://www.mysattv.com.au/Information.aspx>
- Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) - <https://www.acma.gov.au/viewer-access-satellite-tv>
- UEC Australia - <https://uec.com.au/support/about-the-vast-service>
- MySwitch (Federal Government) - <https://myswitch.digitalready.gov.au/>

**The Shire will not be providing any form of financial assistance.**



## **Going forward what is the Shire's role in the TV service in town and what happens if we have any problems?**

As of 23 June 2026, the retransmission TV service will be terminated, and thus this service will no longer be provided by the Shire. After this date, if you have elected to transition to the VAST system, all issues will need to be raised with the VAST administrator, and the set-top box manufacturer (details above):

Email: [vast.administrator@mysattv.com.au](mailto:vast.administrator@mysattv.com.au)

Phone: 1300 993 376

Troubleshooting: [MySatTV - Troubleshooting](#)

Issues with your internet connection will need to be raised with your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and/or NBN.

## **What does this mean for radio services?**

The radio transmission service is completely separate to the TV retransmission service. This means that there will be no impact on radio services currently provided.



## **What does this mean for my TV antenna?**

Internet-based (streaming) TV services and VAST (satellite) services do not require the TV antenna that is currently being used for the Shire's TV retransmission service. However, if you are using your antenna to receive any radio, this will still continue to work for this purpose. If anyone wishes to dispose of their antenna(s) it can be done so at the tip or scrap metal.





***Have a question about this change?***

The Shire will be more than happy to provide information and guidance to any residents who have queries or are uncertain about what they need to do or consider.

Visit the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu and Wongan Hills CRC Customer Service Centre or contact the Shire via the contact information provided below:

✉ [shire@wongan.wa.gov.au](mailto:shire@wongan.wa.gov.au)

☎ 9671 2500





## Receiving free TV via the Internet

Free TV is available free of charge over the Internet. You will need to have a modern TV that is able to be connected to the Internet, and a broadband plan offering enough speed and data capacity to support TV viewing. The Seven, Nine and Ten commercial TV networks and the two national networks all offer their own broadcast video-on-demand (BVOD) apps. The apps offer live as well as catch-up TV viewing, however, commercial apps may not carry all local content and advertising that is available on broadcast TV in your area.

To watch free Australian TV using the Internet:

1. **Select the right apps:** Identify the apps belonging to the networks whose content you wish to access. Five TV networks in Australia offer apps: Seven Network (**7+ or 7plus**), Nine Network (**9Now**), Ten Network (**10 play**), ABC (**ABC iview**) and SBS (**SBS OnDemand**).
2. **Download and install the apps:** Australian TV network apps are not always pre-installed on new connected TVs. If you can't find one or more of the five network apps on the home page of your smart TV, go to the app store on your smart TV, set-top box, or streaming device (e.g., Apple TV, Android TV, Roku) and download the app associated with the network you want to watch.
3. **Create an Account:** Some network apps may require you to create an account before accessing their content. Follow the on-screen instructions to sign up, providing the necessary information.
4. **Open the App:** Launch the app on your device. You may need to log in with the account you created or use the credentials of your existing account if you already have one.
5. **Browse Content:** Explore the app's interface to browse through available content. The network apps provide access to a range of shows, series, and other on-demand content from the respective network as well as supporting live streaming. Look for a "live" or "stream" section within the app.
6. **Select and Play:** Choose the program or content you want to watch and select it. In most cases, you can simply click on the show or movie you're interested in to start streaming.
7. **Use Search and Navigation Features:** Familiarize yourself with the search and navigation features within the app. This will help you quickly find specific shows or discover new content.
8. **Update the App:** Regularly check for app updates to ensure you have the latest features and improvements. App updates may also address any bugs or issues.

Remember that the availability and features of BVOD apps can vary between networks, so it's a good idea to refer to the specific instructions provided by the network for the app you're using. Additionally, make sure your internet connection is stable for a smooth streaming experience.