



## Councillor **William Maslin**

### **For Immediate Release**

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#### Gundagai to miss out on digital television

Gundagai Shire Councillor, William Maslin, said today he holds grave fears for people residing in and around Gundagai when the Australian Government flicks the switch on analogue television in the first half of 2012.

Cr Maslin who has taken the issue up on behalf of his constituents believes the future does not look for Gundagai.

"Nearby towns such as Tumut and Adelong have had their self help transmitters upgraded but the Gundagai transmitter on Mount Parnassus is one that won't be upgraded according to the Australian Government's Digital Switchover Taskforce," Cr Maslin said.

"It seems somewhat ludicrous in this day and age that a large number of residents in the Gundagai Shire won't have fair and equitable access to the terrestrial digital television service given that we are only a stones throw from the national capital.

The Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy have advised that the Mount Parnassus self help site will not be upgraded as it is in an area already serviced by a broadcaster operated transmitter at Mount Ulandra, about 35 kilometres north of Gundagai.

While the broadcasters and Government have recognised the main contributing factor is the local geography, neither seem willing to do anything about it, which is extremely disappointing. Instead you have the Government preferring to hand out a \$400 subsidy to eligible persons to access digital television via satellite, which will turn out to cost the Government more than to upgrade the site.

"I've submitted a Notice of Motion to be debated at the Council meeting next Tuesday to express these concerns to the broadcasters and after that if we have to go kicking and screaming to get something done about it, then sobeit," Cr Maslin concluded.

**End.**

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