

Because the FTA broadcasters in Australia have been permitted to waste some of their allowed bandwidth on advertising/info-channels, we now have the ludicrous situation of low bit rate, so-called "HD channels", which broadcast mainly up-scaled SD content.

At the very least this is misleading advertising, there is nothing high definition about them!

Viewed on a large screen, the poor picture quality makes these programmes virtually "unwatchable". This is a major cause of the increasing desertion of viewers, away from watching any Free To Air TV. As most screens bought in the last 8-10 years are HD capable, viewers want to watch good HD content on them, this is simply not available in Aust. on FTA TV! With the exception of ABC 24, at least for the studio shot material!

If 24hour advertising channels were dropped and the extra bandwidth devoted to the HD channel, then the original vision of high quality Digital TV, when introduced, when CH 90 was broadcasting high bit rate content, with surround sound, would be possible.

If the main channel is not broadcast in HD, with bit rate that will ensure excellent picture quality, then the quick demise of broadcast TV in Aust. is inevitable.

Pete Bele