

mySwitch television signal coverage data

Data description and instructions for use

MARCH 2018

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Introduction

When digital television was introduced to Australia, the [mySwitch](#) website was established to help viewers and installers retune TVs to digital services as the analog services were decommissioned. The mySwitch site enabled viewers and installers to enter a street address and quickly determine whether television signal coverage would be available and, if so, which TV transmitter would be likely to provide the best signal. When the [digital TV restack](#) process was completed, mySwitch was updated to assist viewers and installers to retune TVs to the new digital-only channel arrangements.

The ACMA has decided to publish the television signal coverage data used by mySwitch as it stood at the end of December 2017 as an archival data package. Please note that while the mySwitch data has been updated from time to time as new transmitters are turned on, for the great majority of sites the transmitter data and files reflect coverage predictions as at 2014. Therefore, there may be some minor differences to the current situation.

The data used for the mySwitch website is available to the public for use and consumption in projects or applications that could be developed from the data and associated information attached.

This document describes the data being published and a copy is included in each data archive.

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Television signal coverage data

Data formats

The data is provided in two formats:

- > a ZIP archive containing an ESRI File Geodatabase (FileGDB) directory structure
- > a ZIP archive containing an ESRI Shapefile and a collection of GeoTIFF image files.

The contents of either ZIP archive will need to be extracted to suitable storage for use by GIS software.

Both formats represent the same structure, comprising:

- > a vector point dataset representing nominal transmitter locations
- > a collection of raster datasets representing signal coverage, with each raster dataset associated with one transmitter.

All spatial data is in geographic (that is, unprojected) coordinates referenced to the Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994 (GDA94).

Nominal transmitter locations dataset

Because there are situations where transmitters for different television licences within an identified area of coverage are at different sites, for mySwitch purposes, the ACMA has generalised the representation of transmitter location for each area of coverage to a single nominal transmitter location.

Each nominal transmitter represented by a point feature has the following attributes:

Column name	Data type	Purpose
OBJECTID (FileGDB) FID (Shapefile)	Object ID	Unique identifier
SHAPE (FileGDB) Shape (Shapefile)	Geometry (Point)	Spatial feature
AreaServed	Text	General descriptive name for the area served by the nominal transmitter
CoverageID	Text	Name of associated raster dataset representing signal coverage of transmitter

The dataset names are:

- > Transmitters (FileGDB)
- > Transmitters.shp (Shapefile)

Signal coverage raster datasets

For each nominal transmitter, there is an associated raster dataset representing signal coverage, identified by the transmitter feature's CoverageID attribute.

In the FileGDB data format, the CoverageID directly names the raster dataset.

In the Shapefile/GeoTIFF data format, the CoverageID needs to be linked together with the suffix text '.tif' to identify the GeoTIFF file containing the raster data. For example, for the CoverageID 'CP10010', the GeoTIFF file name is 'CP10010.tif'.

In most cases the raster datasets have a 3 arc-second resolution; however, lower resolutions are sometimes used.

Each raster dataset comprises integer cell values representing a signal coverage assessment status. These are coded as follows:

Cell value	Signal coverage assessment
6	Strong
5	Very good
4	Moderate good
3	Variable moderate
2	Variable poor
1	Unlikely
0	No data

NOTES:

1. mySwitch displays cell value 1 (signal coverage assessment: Unlikely) as 'No coverage'.
2. The field strength predictions used as the basis for the mySwitch signal coverage assessment data were prepared prior to commencement of the digital television restack process and therefore, in some cases, may not reflect changes made during implementation.

Contact

Please email all enquiries about this data to info@acma.gov.au.