



### Television Transition to VAST – Quilpie & Eromanga

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#### 1. Why is the current free-to-air television service being turned off?

The existing television re-transmission service in Quilpie and Eromanga is a legacy system that relies on ageing infrastructure. The cost of maintaining the equipment, combined with workplace health and safety risks and increasing operational demands, means the service is no longer sustainable for Council to operate.

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#### 2. When will the television re-transmission service be switched off?

The Council-operated free-to-air television re-transmission service will be permanently switched off on Friday, 4 December 2026.

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#### 3. What is VAST?

VAST (Viewer Access Satellite Television) is a free-to-air satellite television service designed for regional and remote areas of Australia. It provides access to all your current channels, including ABC, SBS, Imparja, Seven, as well as increased availability of programming with commercial-free-to-air channels via satellite.

VAST is widely used across outback Queensland and is the most reliable alternative to local re-transmission services.

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#### 4. Will I still get free-to-air TV after the shutdown?

No. Only residents who install a VAST system (or another suitable satellite-based system) will continue to receive free-to-air television after the Council service is switched off.

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#### 5. What equipment do I need?

Most households transitioning to VAST will require:

- a roof-mounted satellite dish;
- a VAST-compatible set-top box; and
- associated cabling and fittings.

Some homes may also require minor electrical or signal upgrades.

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### 6. What is the Television Transition Grant?

The Television Transition Grant is a redeemable (reimbursement-based) grant provided by Quilpie Shire Council to help eligible residents and premises cover part of the cost of purchasing and installing VAST equipment. Applicants must pay the costs upfront and then apply for reimbursement after the works are completed.

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### 7. When is the grant open?

The grant program is open:

- **From:** 1 July 2026
- **To:** 30 June 2027

Eligible works may be completed at any time during this period.

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### 8. Who is eligible for the grant?

Eligibility generally includes:

- Property owners.

Certain commercial and community premises (such as motels or hospitals) may be considered on a case-by-case basis where a community benefit can be demonstrated.

Each rateable dwelling or premises is eligible for only one grant.

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### 9. How much funding can I receive?

Council will set a maximum reimbursement cap per property as part of the program launch. The grant will reimburse actual and reasonable costs up to the \$ 1,000 cap.

Council is not obliged to fund the full cost of installation.

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### 10. Do I have to use a local contractor?

Council strongly encourages residents to use local suppliers and contractors within the Quilpie Shire, where reasonably practicable.

If a local contractor is unavailable, unable to complete the works in a reasonable timeframe, or unable to provide the required service, residents may use a non-local contractor. Evidence of attempts to use local suppliers may be required.

Own-source labour is not eligible for reimbursement (i.e. owners who perform the install themselves cannot charge for their own time).

### 11. How do I apply for the grant?

You must:

1. Complete and submit the Grant Application Form;
  2. Receive confirmation of eligibility from Council.
  3. Engage a contractor and complete the work; and
  4. Submit an Acquittal & Reimbursement Form with invoices and proof of payment.
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### 12. What is an acquittal?

An acquittal is the process of demonstrating that the grant funds were used correctly. It includes submitting:

- paid tax invoices;
- proof of payment; and
- confirmation that the works were completed.

Council cannot process payment without a complete acquittal.

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### 13. When do I need to submit my acquittal?

All acquittal documentation must be submitted by 20 June 2027.

Late or incomplete acquittals may result in no reimbursement being paid.

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### 14. What if I already have satellite TV or streaming services?

If you already have a functioning satellite television system that does not rely on Council re-transmission, you may not be eligible for funding.

Streaming services are not funded under this program.

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### 15. Can I use streaming services instead of satellite TV?

Yes. Streaming services are a viable alternative for many residents.

The Quilpie township is supported by NBN Fibre to the Premises (FTTP), which was commissioned in October 2024. This infrastructure enables reliable, high-speed internet suitable for streaming television and on-demand services.

Residents with compatible internet plans and devices may choose to access television content through streaming platforms instead of installing a satellite system. Please note that streaming services, internet plans, and related equipment are not eligible expenses under the Television Transition Grant.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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To check your address for NBN eligibility, visit: - <https://www.nbnco.com.au/>

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### 16. Who do I contact for help or more information?

For further information or assistance, contact:

**Quilpie Shire Council**

Community & Business Development

Phone: (07) 4656 0500

Email: [admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au](mailto:admin@quilpie.qld.gov.au)

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*This FAQ should be read in conjunction with the Television Transition Grant Guidelines, Application Form, and Acquittal Form.*