



Sid Sidebottom MP ... *for a fair go*

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Digital television funding approved

WORK to bring digital television to King Island will soon be underway thanks to \$300,000 from the Rudd Government, Sid Sidebottom MP said today.

Mr Sidebottom said he had been informed today that Minister for Communications, Senator Stephen Conroy, had signed off on the funding.

“I know the people of King Island have been waiting patiently for this important project, and this should be great news,” Mr Sidebottom said.

“The extension of digital television is an important part of keeping people on King Island in touch with the rest of Tasmania and the nation. They deserve access to good television services like anyone else.”

Mr Sidebottom said the funding commitment was made during the 2007 election, and working with the King Island Council it was now to become a reality.

“Because of the innovative approach of the Council, and its partners, it has taken a little time to see this project reach the funding stage,” he said.

“But the aim was to see that King Island people received the best service possible.”

Mr Sidebottom said those who could receive the signal could look forward to an excellent picture once the service was up and running.

“Unfortunately, due to the nature of digital transmissions and the challenging topography of King Island, not everyone will be able to receive the new signal.”

He said the new service was not expected to impact on the analogue service currently provided to the island.

The project will also see an improvement in the ABC radio reception on the island.

The King Island Council will take responsibility for the Currie TV Towers project and will operate the facility on a self-help basis, and be responsible for any ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

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