

26 June 2009



Media Release

Channel NSW moves online as broadcasting trial ends

NSW has discontinued the trial of digital television station Channel NSW, moving the content online for improved public access.

Department of Commerce Director General, Graeme Head, said today the trial of the digital television service, Channel NSW, would conclude on 30 June 2009. The news and information provided by the digital channel will now be offered on a Channel NSW website.

However, Mr Head said the growing predominance of broadband and wireless services had altered the landscape since Channel NSW began in 2004.

"When Channel NSW was launched, digital broadcasting, or datacasting, was seen as an interactive medium that would allow viewers access to services including timetables, traffic information and weather reports," said Mr Head.

"Broadband internet has since developed as a cost-effective option which can deliver this information directly to people's homes, work or on the go - anywhere they may have access to the internet."

Mr Head said earlier in the year the Minister for Commerce had requested that the Director General examine the service. The examination concluded that further participation in the trial was not necessary.

Channel NSW will now be offered as an online service and will continue to provide links to the popular traffic and surf livecams, as well as advice about other NSW Government programs. It will be funded from the existing allocation for the NSW Government website, www.nsw.gov.au.

Viewers will be informed of the changes through notices on Channel NSW.

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