

TV reception issues in Halls Gap

Fact sheet

If you live around the area of Halls Gap, and have problems with your TV reception, here's what you can do.

TV coverage in Halls Gap

TV coverage for the Halls Gap area is provided from the local Halls Gap transmission, located at Mt William, approx. 18 km south of Halls Gap.

The local Halls Gap site is predicted to provide mostly good television coverage across Halls Gap. However, some areas to the north of Halls Gap may have variable, poor or no coverage due to terrain obstructions. Viewers in these areas may have difficulty receiving some or all television channels.

Alternative coverage to some parts of Halls Gap is provided by the main Ballarat transmission site, located approx. 70 km to the east of Halls Gap. While the Ballarat coverage is predicted to be mostly patchy across Halls Gap, areas to the north may receive good coverage.

What's the story with TV reception in the region?

Atmospheric ducting is responsible for occasional poor television reception in some parts of Australia. It causes distant services to interfere with the local services during certain weather conditions.

The input signals that supply the programming feed to the local Halls Gap transmission site are occasionally affected by interference due to atmospheric ducting. Ducting is more prevalent during the warmer months and usually occurs (or at least is noticed by viewers) more often in the early evening.

Can broadcasters fix the issue?

Broadcasters have made transmission infrastructure changes to improve the quality of reception in the area.

How can I improve my reception?

The following steps may help you to have good television reception when ducting is not present.

Get the right antenna and tune your TV to the correct channels

- > **Use a single UHF antenna.** Table 1 on the next page has specific information on suitable antennas.
- > **Make sure your antenna is installed correctly.** It should be installed by a qualified antenna installer and clear of all obstacles.
- > **Get an expert opinion** – have your antenna installation inspected by an experienced antenna installer. They can check and optimise your antenna system, tune your TVs to the correct channels and check if reliable reception from one of the TV broadcasting sites is possible.

Correct antenna types for Halls Gap

High gain – Horizontally polarised Yagi and Phased Array antennas – Wideband UHF



Use the best transmission site

Even if you have your antenna set-up correctly, it may not be picking up the best site. While most of the Halls Gap area is covered by the local Halls Gap site, if you live in the northern parts of Halls Gap, your antenna installer may try to set up your antenna to receive the Ballarat services.

Use mySwitch for information

You can find out the best TV reception information for your location by going to the mySwitch website – <https://myswitch.digitalready.gov.au> – and entering your address.

mySwitch will tell you:

- > the **TV transmitter that has the strongest signals** to your location
- > the **direction to point your antenna**
- > the level of **expected signal coverage in your area**
- > the **TV channel frequencies** for your address

Note that heavily forested areas with high trees and dense foliage may obstruct TV signals, causing reception difficulties.

If the reception is continuously unreliable, you may need to investigate satellite TV.

Other options – satellite TV

If none of these options help, the government's Viewer Access Satellite Television (VAST) service provides households without reliable terrestrial television reception with access to commercial and national services, including multi-channels where available.

Access to VAST is free, although there are one-off costs to buy a VAST-approved satellite set-top box and a satellite dish, and to engage an antenna installer to install the equipment.

Find out more about VAST, including to how to apply, at myvast.com.au.

Table 1: Best transmission sites and antenna type

Transmitter	Halls Gap	Ballarat (alternative option)
Location	Broadcast tower, Mt William	Broadcast tower, Lookout Hill
Channels and frequencies	SBS: 46–655.5 MHz	SBS: 34–571.5 MHz
	ABC: 47–662.5 MHz	ABC: 35–578.5 MHz
	Prime: 48–669.5 MHz	Prime: 36–585.5 MHz
	Win: 49–676.5 MHz	Win: 37–592.5 MHz
	Southern Cross Au: 50–683.5 MHz	Southern Cross Au: 39–606.5 MHz
Antenna	Single high-gain UHF antenna	Single high-gain UHF antenna
Antenna placement	Placed at the optimal position and height to minimise the obstruction of the nearby trees and vegetation	Placed at the optimal position and height to minimise the obstruction of the nearby trees and vegetation
Antenna height	At least above roof height and up to 10m depending on obstructions	At least above roof height and up to 10m depending on obstructions
Polarization	Horizontal	Horizontal