

## **TRANSMITTERS –**

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Towers or poles on hills, water towers or tall buildings with an antenna on top of the pole, which emanates signal.

#### **Where are they?**

All over this big country of ours.

#### **Do they vary?**

Yes! Basically there are 3 types of transmitters, two of which are known as translators (see previous article for further explanation). We will consider them here as father bear, mother bear and baby bear.

The father bear transmitters refer to the capital city and major regional centre transmitters. City transmitters cover major populations, are predominantly VHF and horizontally polarized. Regional transmitters are a mixture of horizontal and vertical polarization but are mainly UHF. Examples of major regional transmitters are: Bendigo, Albany, Townsville, Darwin, Mt Gambier and Orange.

Mother bear would refer to the translators located outside major population centres or they may be used in capital cities to increase the coverage of the main transmitter because some geological or man-made structure blocks the signal. They generally service a significant country town or a large suburb and often the signal is not sent out in a 360 degree radius, for example: Selby and Como in the Melbourne suburbs; Gold Coast in Queensland; Cairns North in Queensland; Bordertown in South Australia. There are 1000's of this type of translator scattered around the country. They are never as powerful as transmitters, which they rely on to feed them the signal that they convert to a different channel.

The baby bear would be the translator installed for small country towns. There are 1000's of these too and this category is growing all the time. As funds become available, another town gets its own translator. SBS is also in the middle of quite a large programme to get additional translators installed to bring their signals to every household in the country. These signals are almost exclusively UHF. The output is small and it is very directional.

The caravanner should understand these various output levels of transmission. It is very useful knowledge as it allows the caravanner to understand more about television reception. For example, a caravanner with a line-of-sight orientation to Bendigo (in other words, no major obstacles in the way) who he is 100 kilometres away from the town should be able to receive usable signals because Bendigo has a major transmitter but a caravanner with a line-of-sight relationship to Dubbo translator, who is 100 kilometres away, would not receive usable signals because the Fringe area for the Dubbo baby bear translator is approx. 8 kilometres.

We often have caravanners calling us confused because their antenna worked so well with beautiful pictures in one spot and yet in a location, which appears to be closer to the transmitter, their pictures are not as good. This is often the reason - father bear, mother bear or baby bear.