



# A Bravia new world

3D TV is ready, so put on your special glasses and prepare to be turned on, writes

**Stephen Fenech**

## SONY BRAVIA HX800

Sony, \$3499

sony.com.au

★★★★

**T**HE year of 3D television is upon us. Three-dimensional content has already started to arrive in movies, games and, of course, the soccer World Cup.

To capitalise on this interest, Sony speeded up its Australian 3D plans, making this country one of the first in the world to

receive its 3D panels.

Sony's four Bravia HX televisions offer the option of adding 3D with a transmitter accessory (\$69) and 3D active shutter glasses (\$99 a pair).

Inspecting the 46-inch HX800 model, it's clear that TV technology has come of age. Dynamic Edge LED lighting ensures the panel is only 2.6cm thick.

This TV panel also features Sony's Bravia Engine 3, a high-definition processor that maintains picture quality with constant adjustments to perfect contrast, colour saturation and brightness settings.

The result is a lifelike display with accurate colours and amazing detail in 2D footage.

But anyone who buys this TV will be itching to see how the panel handles 3D footage.

For that, users will need to connect a 3D transmitter to the rear of the TV and position it below the screen.

The transmitter communicates with the 3D glasses so they are synchronised with the on-screen action.

The panel interlaces a high-definition image for each eye 100 times a second to provide

the 3D effect.

Activating the TV's 3D-viewing mode makes the screen seem blurry, but with the glasses turned on the screen suddenly jumps into focus and appears in 3D.

The quality of 3D images is impressive and the picture maintains its quality with the extra dimension. Fast movements, once the bane of LCD screens, are smooth without any noticeable juddering in 2D. But while watching live 3D broadcasts there are a couple of camera movements that make us momentarily dizzy.

That is more the fault of the technology used to simulate 3D rather than the panel itself.

The 3D glasses also have a quirk. The glasses' lenses are actually shutters that open and close 100 times each second in time with the panel.

If you tilt your head even less than 45 degrees the picture becomes blurry, because the lenses no longer line up with the output plane of the screen.

All 3D viewers clearly won't be able to rest their head on a pillow or lie on their side.

No other 3D side-effects appear during testing, though, other than a slight soreness on the nose bridge caused by the glasses.

Sony's HX800 costs a little more than that of its competitor, Samsung, and that's even before you include the accessories needed to deliver 3D TV.

But overall the HX800 performs admirably. It's the best 2D Bravia to date and the fact it can display 3D in high quality is the cherry on top of a great package.

