

Policy file

Media Releases

AAPT Telecommunications

Announces its intention to float. 6/10/97

Australian Broadcasting Authority

New metropolitan radio licences are likely to be offered before the end of 1998. 21/7/97

Invites applications for new commercial radio licenses in regional areas. 30/9/97

ABA/UNESCO study on Internet regulation released 1/10/97

CanWest is granted an extension of time in which to remedy its breaches of the foreign ownership provisions of the Broadcasting Services Act. 2/10/97

Twenty-two new radio services proposed for Central Coast region of Queensland, including Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg. 3/10/97

Full time temporary licenses granted to ten community broadcasting groups in Queensland, Victoria, NSW and SA. 3/10/97

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

MD Brian Johns calls for Government to take 'expansive view' on developing digital broadcasting policy. 1/10/97

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

Number portability mandated for telecommunications suppliers. 22/9/97

Australian Consumers' Association

Government called on to speed up mobile spectrum auction. 25/9/97

Australian Democrats – Senator Cheryl Kernot

Government accused of deliberately undervaluing Telstra leading up to its float.

Australian Democrats – Senator Lyn Allison

Government's decision to prevent B-party charging welcomed. 30/9/97

Australian Press Council

Complaint against the *Age*, Melbourne, by the Polish Anti-Defamation league dismissed. 30/9/97

Complaint against the *Age*, Melbourne, about a 'colour' article on Gippsland considered, and finding ordered published. 30/9/97

Complaint against the *Canberra Times*, by the Sukyo Mahikari organisation dismissed. 30/9/97

Complaint against the *Sunday Telegraph*, Sydney, by the Federation of Parents and Citizens Associations of NSW upheld. 30/9/97

Opposes NSW Costs in Criminal Cases Amendment Bill, which would allow the media to be charged for the cost of trials aborted because of contempt. 2/10/97

Professor Denis Pearce, a former Commonwealth Ombudsman, is appointed chair of the APC, replacing professor David Flint. 2/10/97

Australis Media

Company reports after-tax loss of \$259 million for previous financial year. 11/9/97

Consumers' Telecommunications Network

Complaints handling should be a priority area for the Consumer Codes Reference Panel. 3/10/97

Minister for Communications and the Arts – Senator Alston

ABA directed to consult with ISPs over online code of practice. 5/9/97

National Office for the Information Economy created. 16/9/97

Announces support for introduction of digital radio. 19/9/97

Auction of 800Mhz and 1.8Ghz bands of mobile spectrum deferred until first half of 1998. 24/9/97

Government will not allow 'B-party' charging by Telstra or other carriage service providers. 30/9/97

Announces appointment of Don Mercer as chair of the advisory board of the new National Office for the Information Economy. 2/10/97

Minister for Finance – John Fahey

The Office of Government Information Technology will stay under the control of the Department of Finance. 2/10/97

National Australia Bank

Bank announces outsourcing of European telecommunications networks to British Telecom in a deal worth \$200 million over five years. 22/9/97

Optus Communications

Launches mobile digital automatic international roaming service in US. 16/9/97

Company welcomes Government decision on local number portability. 23/9/97

Caller ID for Optus Mobile customers will be introduced from 24 November. 24/9/97

Announces discount for customers subscribing to bundled pay TV and STD services. 30/9/97

Ford Australia is the first user of Optus Communications DataReach satellite communications system. 2/10/97

Telstra

Telstra welcomes the Government's timetable for local number portability. 23/9/97

Telstra mounts legal action in the United States, challenging the FCC's Internet 'benchmarks'. 2/10/97

SureLink, a secure Internet transaction service, launched. 2/10/97

CPSU members of Telstra staff consider strike action. 3/10/97

Southern Cross Cable Network

Optus, Telecom New Zealand and US carrier Worldcom will meet in Sydney in November to discuss a new international high capacity cable to the US. 3/10/97

Conferences & Seminars

October

23 Communications Law Centre will launch its latest research paper, *Privacy and the Media* by Paul Chadwick and Jenny Mullaly at the City Campus of Victoria University of Technology, Melbourne.

24, 25 & 26: Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy, *Cultural Crossroads: Ownership, Access, Identity*, ANA Hotel, Sydney. Speakers include Robyn Archer, Adelaide Festival; Janet Holmes a Court; Brian Kennedy, Director, National Gallery of Australia; Richard Collins, UK Institute for Public Policy Research; Penelope Cottier, National Film and Sound Archive; Anne Cheung, University of Hong Kong. Contact: Karen Perkins, tel (07) 3875 5350, fax (07) 3875 5511, email CMP@hum.gu.edu.au. Website: http://www.gu.edu.au/gwis/akccmp/crossroads_conf.html

4 & 5: Australian Institute of Criminology and Office of Film and Literature Classification, Violence, Crime and the Entertainment Media, Swiss Grand Hotel, Bondi. Speakers include Prof Richard Heffner and Prof Donald Roberts (USA), John Dickie, Prof Peter Sheehan, Dr Adam Graycar. Contact: tel (06) 292 9000 fax (06) 292 9002. Cost: \$495 (both days)/\$250 (one day), discount for early full registration.

Communications Law Centre *Privacy and the Media*, Paul Chadwick and Jenny Mullaly, \$35, (02) 9663 0551 or (03) 9248 1278, e-mail comslaw@ozemail.com.au

Communications Law Centre, *Australian Telecommunications Regulation – the Communications Law Centre Guide*, July 1997. Edited by Alasdair Grant. Written by Holly Raiche, Alasdair Grant, Thomas Jones, Bronwyn James and Jock Given. A comprehensive guide to the new telecommunications regime. Available from the Centre, tel (02) 9663 0551 fax (02) 9662 6839 email comslaw@ozemail.com.au. Cost \$45.

Communications Law Centre, *Crossing the digital threshold*, July 1997. Written by Scott McQuire. Published by the Australian Key Centre for Cultural and Media Policy. Available from the Centre, tel (02) 9663 0551. Cost \$10.

La Trobe University Media Online Program, *Making Money From the Web? Business models for online news*, June 1997. Written by Susan Mings and Peter White. Available from the Online Media Program, tel (03) 9479 2785, fax (03) 9479 3638, email pbwhite@latrobe.edu.au. Website: <http://teloz.latrobe.edu.au/omp/briefs>. Cost: \$150.

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