Date Introduced: 29 February 1984
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. M.J. Duffy, M.P., Minister for Communications

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To amend the Telecommunications Act 1975, the Postal Services Act 1975 and the Overseas Telecommunications Act 1946 in relation to the national telecommunications system as a consequence of the Satellite Communications Bill 1984.

Background

Refer to the Background notes in the digest for the Satellite Communications Bill 1984.

Main Provisions

Clause 4 amends section 6 of the Telecommunications Act 1975 by which Telecom is required to have regard to the intention of Parliament expressed in section 7 of the Satellite Communications Act 1984, namely that the telecommunications system provided by Telecom and that provided by AUSSAT will together form the national telecommunications network for Australia.

By clause 5, Telecom will be empowered to form companies whose business relates to telecommunications as well as acquiring shares in AUSSAT, subject to Ministerial approval.

Clause 8 amends section 9 of the Postal Services Act 1975 to enable the Postal Services Commission to use the services provided by AUSSAT in the performance of its functions.
Clause 10 amends section 37 of the Overseas Telecommunications Act 1946 in order to withdraw the power of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission to form and participate in domestic satellite companies. By clause 11, OTC will be empowered to use the services provided by AUSSAT in the performance of its functions.

For further information, if required, contact:

15 March 1984

Education and Welfare Group
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE