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THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH
OF AUSTRALIA

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS)
BILL 1984

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

(Circulated by authority of the
Minister for Communications)

OUTLINE

The Satellite Communications (Consequential Amendments) Bill 1984 amends the Telecommunications Act 1975, the Postal Services Act 1975 and the Overseas Telecommunications Act 1946 in relation to a number of matters consequent upon the Satellite Communications Bill 1984. The Bill basically provides that:

- . the Australian Telecommunications Commission (the Commission) is required to have regard to the intention of Parliament as expressed in section 7 of the Satellite Communications Bill 1984;
- . the Commission is given the power to form subsidiary companies that are involved in the business of telecommunications;
- . the Postal Services Commission is given power to use services provided by AUSSAT Pty Ltd (AUSSAT) in the carrying out of its functions;
- . the Overseas Telecommunications Commission is given the power to use services provided by AUSSAT in the carrying out of its functions;
- . the power of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission to form and participate in satellite companies is to be withdrawn.

NOTES ON CLAUSES

Clauses 1 and 2

1. The first two clauses of the Bill provide for the short title and the commencement of the legislation. The Bill is to come into effect on the commencement of the Satellite Communications Bill 1984.

Clause 3

2. The clause provides a reference to the Telecommunications Act 1975 for the purpose of this part of the Bill.

Clause 4

3. The Telecommunications Act 1975 is amended to include in the duties of the Commission a duty to have regard to the intention of the Parliament expressed in section 7 of the Satellite Communications Bill 1984 which is that the system provided by the Commission together with the space satellite system provided by AUSSAT will together form the national telecommunications network for Australia.

Clause 5

4. A clause is inserted into the Telecommunications Act to enable the Commission to form and participate in subsidiary companies formed to carry on a business relating to telecommunications. Procedures to enable the Commission to dispose of interests in such companies are provided with the Minister's approval.

Clause 6

5. An exception to the prohibition that persons other than the Commission are not to construct, maintain or operate telecommunications installations is provided for AUSSAT or persons who are authorized users of AUSSAT facilities.

Clause 7

6. A reference to the Postal Services Act 1975 is provided for this part of the Bill.

Clause 8

7. The Postal Services Act 1975 is amended to give the Postal Services Commission the power to use the services provided by AUSSAT in the performance of its functions.

Clause 9

8. A reference to the Overseas Telecommunications Act is provided for the purposes of this part.

Clause 10

9. The power of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission to form and participate in satellite companies is withdrawn by this clause.

Clause 11

10. The Overseas Telecommunications Commission is given the power to use the services provided by AUSSAT in the performance of its functions.

