

(Cont'd from p8)

Territory soon, using transmitters in Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek and that the Government would conduct a study as to whether such services should be extended to Cape York, the Kimberleys and the Pilbara.

(Cont'd from p9)

purpose of criticism and review is concerned.

The Media Release also stated the Government's intention to further consider options for home taping (and educational use of audiovisual materials) and to examine the potential for a rental right for copyright owners of records and videos.

Catriona Hughes

#### **NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

The Government has formed the NBSDC to advise it on the ABC and SBS radio and television expansion. The establishment of the Council means the abolition of the National Broadcasting Service Planning Committee and the Special Broadcasting Service Planning Committee.

### ***Communications Law Bulletin***

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## **AUSSAT**

### **TECHNICAL DIGEST**

In the context of AUSSAT and the domestic satellite and Remote Commercial Television Services (RCTS) technology is becoming important. The Bulletin will attempt to explain some of the terms used to enable readers to better understand these communications issues.

The first term is "B-MAC", the technical system to be used for the ABC's remote area service (HACBSS), and, thus, also for RCTS licensees.

It is said that the B-MAC (Multiplexed Analogue Component, Type B) transmission system chosen for Australia's Homestead and Community Broadcasting Satellite Service (HACBSS), has several significant advantages: high quality television reception, six digital sound channels, a data channel and more reliable reception, even under extreme climatic conditions. The system also has the capacity to keep pace with future technological developments which will improve the quality of television (e.g. extended definition television).

The system is capable of carrying stereo and mono sound broadcasts plus television with stereo sound, teletext, and a data channel which could provide emergency warnings, special educational programs and other services.

B-MAC signals transmitted via satellite at a frequency of 12 GHz are received by a dish-shaped antenna and Outdoor Unit (ODU). The ODU converts these signals to a lower frequency for transmission through an interconnecting cable (about 30m long) to the Indoor Unit (IDU). The IDU provides a means of tuning to different satellite transponders, or channels, and with the aid of a baseband processor located within the IDU, separates the picture, sound channels, data and teletext for connection to domestic receiving units.

The television picture or pages of teletext are accessible through either a traditional television (PAL) receiver or RGB (Red/Green/Blue) video monitor. Radio programs or sound to match the television picture are accessible through a stereo amplifier. A traditional radio receiver is not required.