

FOREWORD

This edition of the Macarthur Law Review marks a significant stage in the development of the journal. The Faculty of Law at UWS Macarthur is committed to innovative approaches to legal education and research, a perspective that has been reflected in the Law Review since its inception.

This edition of the Journal continues and extends this approach, focussing on a "theme" which is of fundamental and increasing importance as we move into the 21st century - the ubiquitous yet ethereal realm of e-commerce and the "digital frontier".

Each stage in our world's ongoing industrial development has brought with it significant social and political change, accompanied by increasingly difficult legal problems flowing from the inevitable gap as the law trails behind commercial and other developments. As the various papers illustrate, the complexity of computerised business, and its intangible nature, mean that the "gap" between transactions and the law is even wider than usual, and the risks of legal regulatory failure commensurately greater.

And as a number of the papers suggest, the Internet raises underlying social policy questions, including considerations of access, equity and free speech. The legal implications of computerised business will continue to generate difficult policy and technical issues, but the papers in this issue make an important contribution to the debate.

My congratulations to the authors, editors, student assistants, and everyone else associated with the production of the journal.

Professor RH Woellner
Dean
Faculty of Law
UWS Macarthur