

1.2.1 (cont'd)

The principal functions of the Commission as defined in the Act were to plan, establish, maintain and operate telecommunications services within Australia.

The Commission was required by the Act to perform these functions in such a manner as best meets the social, industrial and commercial needs of the Australian people for telecommunications services, and, so far as it is, in its opinion, reasonably practicable to do so, make its telecommunications services available throughout Australia for all people who reasonably require those services. In particular, the Commission was required to have regard to:

- \* the desirability of improving and extending its telecommunications services in the light of developments in that field;
- \* the need to operate its services as efficiently and economically as practicable; and
- \* the special needs for telecommunications services of Australian people who reside or carry on business outside the cities.

The Act ensured that Telecom would have a monopoly over the provision of domestic telecommunications. It prohibited the resale of telecommunications services except with the authority of the Commission or as provided in the Telecommunications By-laws. It also prohibited the construction, maintenance or operation of telecommunications installations by other than the Commission, with some specific exceptions. The principal exceptions were:

- \* the attachment of a line, equipment or apparatus to a telecommunications system, to the extent that the attachment is authorised by the Commission;
- \* for the communications of a single legal entity, contained entirely within a given property (land or premises);
- \* operational communications systems for railway, tramway and bus services;
- \* national and commercial broadcasters, in providing broadcasting services;