

# **PART I - COMMUNICATIONS REGULATIONS AND MARKETS**

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## **1. THE AUSTRALIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY THE PRE-MAY 1988 - STATEMENT ENVIRONMENT**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This section of the briefing document outlines the industry structure and regulatory environment applying to the Australian telecommunications industry prior to implementation of the policy changes announced in the May 1988 Statement<sup>1</sup>.

### **1.2 The National Carriers**

Australia has, and will continue to have, three national telecommunications carriers, each having its own specific role in providing telecommunications services. These are:

- \* Telecom Australia - the domestic telecommunications carrier which provides a full range of telecommunications services within Australia, as well as offering a wide range of customer premise equipment and a number of value added services;
- \* OTC (The Overseas Telecommunications Commission) - the international communications carrier which provides all international communications in and out of Australia;
- \* AUSSAT Pty Ltd - the satellite communications carrier which provides satellite-based communications services, but not public switched telecommunications services.

The roles of each of these carriers prior to the changes announced in the May 1988 Statement are described in the following sub-sections.

#### **1.2.1 Telecom Australia**

Telecom Australia (commonly referred to as "Telecom") is the trading name of the Australian Telecommunications Commission, a statutory authority of the Commonwealth Government which was established by the Telecommunications Act 1975. Telecom Australia took over the provision of telecommunications from the former department of state, the Postmaster-General's Department, which also had responsibility for both postal services.