

2.1 (cont'd)

A similar assessment will also be required to determine whether the network(s) of public Telepoints associated with the new generation of cordless telephones (CT2), as being implemented in the UK, will be a reserved service.

AUSTEL's evaluation will take place in an environment of a changing private sector in the telecommunications industry. One of the most notable of these has been the arrival of major overseas carriers, such as Bell South and Cable & Wireless on Australia's doorstep, with the part or total acquisition of local telecommunications service companies. Clearly these moves are in anticipation of gaining participation to the main game - carrying high revenue, high margin traffic, such as cellular.

AUSTEL will also face some major definitional problems:

- * the review of what constitutes a Common Interest Group; and
- * the determination of a precise boundaries between basic (reserved) services, value added services, and private network services (PNS).

The new Chairperson designate of AUSTEL, Mr Robin Davey was appointed recently. AUSTEL will officially commence operations on July 1, 1989.

2.2 The Telecommunications Bill 1989

The Telecommunications Bill 1989, together with other new telecommunications legislation², has now passed unamended through both the House of Representatives (our Lower House), and the Senate. It will come into force on 1 July 1989. The legislation determines:

- * the establishment, functions and powers of AUSTEL;
- * the regulation of telecommunications networks, including the operation of telecommunications networks and facilities, reserved services and reserved service charges;
- * value added services and private network services, including class licences, registration of services, and unlicensed services;