ACMAsphere

WELCOME to ACMAsphere

As Acting Chair of the newly established Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), I would like to welcome you to the first issue of *ACMAsphere*, our new monthly news publication.

ACMAsphere will report on the full range of our activities, including short news items and longer articles exploring current issues in more depth. We expect its readership to include people from across the communications and media industries, as well as community representatives and others with an interest in our regulatory work.

This issue introduces the members of the new Authority and reports on recent activity by ACMA and our predecessors, the Australian Broadcasting Authority and the Australian Communications Authority.

We hope you find this publication informative, and we welcome your comments.

LYN MADDOCK

Members of the Authority take up the reins

Lyn Maddock, Acting Chair of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) and Chris Cheah, Acting Deputy Chair, took up their posts on 1 July 2005, the first day of operation of the new regulator, along with part-time Authority members Gerard Anderson, Malcolm Long, Johanna Plante and Rod Shogren.

Announcing the new Authority on 24 June 2005, the Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan, said that the members bring a broad range of experience and expertise across ACMA's areas of responsibility including telecommunications, broadcasting and radiocommunications.

Lyn Maddock was the Acting Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA), and had been Deputy Chair of the ABA since 2000. She has broad experience within the public sector, including senior roles with the National Occupation, Health and Safety Commission, the Productivity Commission and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and has also held senior positions with Westpac. Ms Maddock was appointed to ACMA for four years.

Chris Cheah was head of the Telecommunications Division of the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, advising the Australian Government on telecommunications issues. He has also managed accessibility funding programs and held positions with Austel (the predecessor to the Australian Communications Authority) and Telstra. Mr Cheah was appointed to ACMA for four years.

Gerard Anderson is Head of Academic Programs at the University of Central Queensland's Melbourne Campus and was formerly Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of the IT and Mathematical Schools at the University of Ballarat. He has also been a member of the Networking the Nation Board. Professor Anderson was appointed to ACMA for three years.

Malcolm Long is the Executive Director of the Australian Film Television and Radio School and was a part-time member of the ABA. He was previously the Managing Director of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), has held various roles with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, including Deputy Managing Director, and has worked for several years as a communications consultant. Mr Long was appointed to ACMA for four years.

Johanna Plante recently retired as the CEO of the Australian Communications Industry Forum, and has held senior positions with KPMG, Telstra, Pacific Star Communications and Coopers and Lybrand, was a member of Austel and a Board Member of the Regional Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (Networking the Nation). Ms Plante was appointed to ACMA for three years.

Rod Shogren is a former Commissioner with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission with a role in telecommunications regulation. He has held a number of senior positions within the public sector and is a consultant for Access Economics. Mr Shogren was appointed to ACMA for three years.

CHRIS CHEAH   GERARD ANDERSON   MALCOLM LONG   JOHANNA PLANTE   ROD SHOGREN