The Who's Who of NISC

t's to be a bells and whistles launch next month of the Government's new National Information Services Council - the body which will scrutinise and discuss the broad policy issues associated with the information superhighway in Australia. Paul Keating himself will chair at least the first meeting of NISC in what is likely to be a highlight of Canberra's political calendar for August.

The cynics will see it as a pre-election effort on Keating's part to show his willingness to consult widely with industry and interest groups before implementing recommendations arising from the Broadband Services Expert Group.

According to the PM's own media machine, NISC will be an important source of non-government views on key issues and will be a measure of the Government's 'commitment to the notion that we can harness the enormous potential of the information age to achieve a fairer, healthier, better educated and more productive society.'

With such a weighty agenda, it is interesting to note that there are only two meetings scheduled for NISC - one in August and one in October.

The first meeting will look at community access, the evolution of communications services and technologies, industry development, legal and community standards, and the international context and implications of new communications services and technologies. So far, no mention of

big issues like Australian ownership of the superhighway's infrastructure.

A strong emphasis in all the Government statements on NISC is on the need to keep up with the latest marketplace developments. This may explain the abundance of industry people on the Council. Half of the panel of 20 comes from the media and IT industries and of those, five are from the computer hardware industry. It would seem from this that content issues are to take a back seat to technology issues.

NISC is part of a government machine that will eventually come up with a 'National Strategy'. The panel is made up of the following people:

Roger Allen
Chairman
Computer Power Group
Chairman
Australian Artificial Intelligence Institute

The Computer Power Group has grown from a suburban business in Melbourne to an international group employing over 2,000 people in 50 offices around the world with an annual turnover of $220 million. Mr Allen also has 20 years experience in marketing Australian intellectual property to the world market.

Professor David Beanland
Vice-Chancellor
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology

Starting out as an electrical engineer, Prof Beanland moved into teaching in the early 1960s, joining RMIT in 1968 as head of the Department of Communication and Electronic Engineering. He was Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 1979 to 1984 and became Vice-Chancellor in 1992.

John Burke
Director
Centre for International Research on Communications and Information Technolgies (CIRCIT)

Before taking up the position with CIRCIT in 1994, Mr Burke was group manager in the Corporate Strategy Directorate of Telecom. He has also worked for IBM in Australia and the UK, the Commission for the Future and the Victorian Assocation of Citizens Advice Bureaus.

Lyndsey Cattermole
Managing Director
Aspect Computing Pty Ltd

Aspect Computing is an Australian software company founded in 1974 with offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, London and Amsterdam, employing 700 people. Also represented on: Victorian Premier's multimedia taskforce; Swinburne Univeristy of Technology Council; The Age Advisory Board; Royal Children's Hospital Board of Management; Australian Information Industries Association.

Col Cooper
National President
Communications Electrical and Plumbing Union (CEPU)

A telecommunications technician, Mr Cooper began his union career as assistant secretary to the Postal, Telecommunications Technicians Association in 1966. Later, he became the federal president of the Australian Telecommunications Employees Association (ATEA). Also represented on the NSW Trade Union Training Authority, the Australian Manufacturing Council and various Communication Information Technology Industry sub-committees.

Dr Dennis Cooper
Chief
CSIRO Division of Radiophysics

Joined CSIRO in 1968 and coordinated ground support for NASA deep space missions and was responsible for the design and construction of the Australia Telescope National Facility antenna systems. As chief of the radiophysics division, expanded tel-
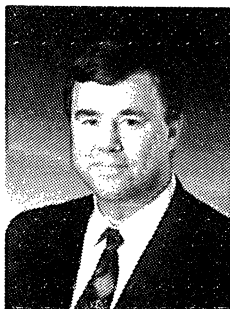
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ecommunications research, including computer communications. He was a member of the Broadband Services Expert Group.

**Alison Crook, AO
Chief Executive
Department of State
Development (NSW)**

Formerly the State Librarian (1987-1994), is currently also a director of Lend Lease Corporate Financial Services, St James Ethics Centre, Open Learning Technology Corporation Limited, Open Net Pty Ltd and IBM Australia. Formerly a director of the Overseas Services Bureau, Open Learning Agency of Australia and a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Western Sydney.

**Doug Elix
Managing Director
IBM Australia**

Joined IBM in 1969, working in systems engineering and marketing until 1981 when joined IBM's Americas/Far East operation. Returned to Australia in 1984 and became manager of Business Management in 1986, then assigned to Asia Pacific headquarters as director, Finance Industry. In 1993 he was appointed as managing director of IBM Australia.

**Betty Hounslow
Director
Australian Council of Social
Services (ACOSS)**

Began career in 1969 as a high school teacher in Queensland, then worked in the Marrickville Woman's Refuge in Sydney (1978), the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and the NSW Council of Social Service, the Marrickville Legal Centre (1982-88), a special project officer for the New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (1991), principal project and policy officer for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre (1988-92), a Human Rights Officer for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (1993) before joining ACOSS as director.
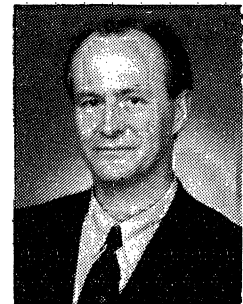

**Brian Johns, AO
Managing Director
Australian Broadcasting
Corporation (ABC)**

Chairman of the Broadband Services Expert Group. Before appointment to the ABC, he chaired the Australian Broadcasting Authority, was managing director of the SBS (1987-92) and publishing director of Penguin Books (1979-87). He was a senior policy adviser in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet during the Whitlam and Fraser governments. He was a journalist on *The Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian* and *The Bulletin* (1964-1974).

**Judith King
Executive Director
Australian Coalition of
Service Industries**

The Australian Coalition of Service Industries is a private sector organisation promoting the development of export-oriented service industries.In 1993, Ms King was appointed to the Services World Forum- an international grouping of specialists in the service industries.

**Michael Lynch
General Manager
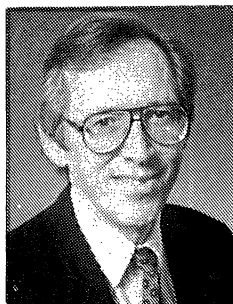Australia Council for the Arts**

A former manager of Sydney's Nimrod Theatre, he was also an administrator of the Australian National Playwright's Conference and later a consultant to the NSW Minister for Education. From 1981-89 he managed Forcast Pty Ltd, a casting consultancy. He was general manager of the Sydney Theatre Company from 1989 to 1994.

**Sean O'Halloran
Former director
Broadcast Policy and Network
Development
Seven Network Ltd**

Frank Peach
Director-General of Education
Qld Department of Education

A high school teacher in Queensland for 15 years, became an inspector of schools in 1985 and later, the head of policy unit in the Department of Education in 1990 and director general in 1994. Also, chair Qld Curriculum Council, director, Curriculum Corporation of Australia, director, Qld Tertiary Admissions Centre and a member of the Senate of the University of Queensland.

Alan Petts
Interconnect Manager
Optus Communications

With more than 25 years experience in telecommunications, Mr Petts has been seconded to Optus from Britain's Cable & Wireless plc where he was divisional manager, Operations, for Mercury Communications Ltd from 1987-91. Responsible for Optus's negotiations for carrier network interconnection arrangements.

John Riedl
Chief Executive Officer
Techniche Ltd

Techniche Ltd is one of the 11 management investment companies established by the federal government to stimulate the development of high technology in Australia.
Started career in the Weapons Research Establishment and later the Navy as a computer modeller. Joined Honeywell Control Systems in 1976 as head of the computer control group then as marketing manager and later general manager of information division of AWA Limited. Joined Techniche in 1986.

Judy Slatyer
Business Development Manager
Telstra Multimedia

An adviser to the Hon Ralph Willis in three portfolios - industrial relations, transport and communications and finance - she later joined Telstra's international business unit before taking up the position in the new multimedia business unit. She played a major role in the negotiation and establishment of Testra's joint cable venture with News Corp - Foxtel.

Ron Spithill
Managing Director
Alcatel

An engineer, he joined STC (Alcatel's previous name) in 1962 becoming marketing manager of telecommunications in 1980. Now responsible for all Alcatel operations in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Dr Ockert Van Zyl
General Manager
Telecommunications and
Manufacturing
Siemens Ltd

An electrical engineer, Dr Van Zyl came to Australia from his native South Africa in 1980. His career with Siemens has focussed on power engineering and telecommunications. Represented on federal government committees on IT and telecommunications issues.

Peter Waters, Chair
Communications Law Centre

A partner with Sydney law firm, Gilbert & Tobin. Was legal consultant to the Minister for Social Security in 1987 and worked for a US law firm on international trade and securities law from 1988-89. Has given regulatory advice to Hong Kong Telecom, BellSouth, AAPT and is currently the regulatory counsel to Optus.