



More facts, less twaddle please *CU*

The Editor
Communications Update
Sydney

Dear Editor

Jock Given's peculiar article ('Sydney's game - simply the best?', *Communications Update*, April 1996) ascribes the ARL's recent victory over Super League to something he calls 'Sydney'.

What, precisely, is this 'Sydney' thing? Mr Given provides no clue, yet repeatedly refers to 'it' as if everyone already accepts 'Sydney' as an entity with known characteristics.

And this isn't Jock's only flight of fancy in the article.

Elsewhere he informs us: 'Packer and his father were veterans of the harbour city, its afternoon paper wars and its TV'.

The only 'afternoon paper war' which Frank and Kerry Packer could have participated in was that between *The Sun* (owned by Fairfax) and the *Daily Mirror* (owned by Murdoch). The Packer newspaper - *The Daily Telegraph* - was published in the morning.

More facts, less twaddle please Mr Given.

DAVID SALTER
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National Trust Telecommunications Policy

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) has released a Telecommunications Policy. Its objects are:

- to acquire, protect and preserve, for the benefit of the public, lands and structures of beauty or of national, historic, scientific, architectural or cultural interest;
 - to safeguard natural features and scenic landscape and conserve wildlife; and
 - to encourage and promote public appreciation, knowledge and enjoyment of these things.
4. ...mobile telephone towers should not be placed in environmentally sensitive locations.
 5. ...all proposed works must be open for public comment in a systematic way to allow for input from community bodies, such as the National Trust.
 6. ...carriers must take a broader approach to the installation of infrastructure, taking into account Council planning policies, curtilages for heritage items, landscape considerations and other environmental concerns.
 7. These considerations apply with even greater force to areas of both built and natural heritage.
 8. ...carriers must be required to establish a strategic framework for their infrastructure networks to ensure that facilities are not unnecessarily duplicated.
 9. The National Trust supports all endeavours and action by the Local Government Association and by Councils to take legal action against carriers who use overhead cabling.
 10. The National Trust urges members not to subscribe and to cancel subscriptions with carriers which breach this policy, until this matter has been resolved.

Policy Statement

1. The National Trust community conservation organisation believes that the telecommunication companies should not be exempt from State and local planning approval for overhead cables, mobile telephone towers and related structures.
2. ...carriers should obtain approval from Councils for any installation of telecommunications infrastructure which has the potential for environmental degradation and all applications should be accompanied by an environmental and heritage statement as to its effects to allow effective comment.
3. ...all telecommunications cabling should be placed underground.