



concerns regarding the safety of electromagnetic radiation and the difficulties that may therefore be faced by those requiring the consent of authorities and proprietors to install larger facilities, such consent may prove difficult to obtain.

This places existing carriers at a considerable advantage over new entrants and is likely to entrench the current oligopoly in national network ownership. For example, new competitors may face impediments to the installation of high capacity wireless trunk links, which exceed the limits of a low-impact facility, and may therefore be forced to seek access to an incumbents' infrastructure even if it would otherwise be commercially preferable to build its own. Existing carriers would also be better placed to exploit opportunities arising from increased demand for services using these facilities, as their ownership of infrastructure would entitle them to seek a facility installation permit to build additional facilities.

The extent to which new carriers may install more than purely local infrastructure will largely depend on approaches taken by state and territory governments to their new powers to regulate the installation of communications infrastructure. If governments decline to act, planning power will in most cases devolve to local councils and carriers will be required to negotiate at this level. In this case, a carrier wishing to deploy a network spanning a number of local jurisdictions may be faced with the prospect of different parts of the network being subject to different planning obligations, or of some parts being prohibited outright. The problems in developing market strategy and configuring networks in these circumstances make it likely that new and existing carriers will urge state and territory governments to impose uniform, state and territory wide laws informed by their own policy considerations.

Telecoms post 1997 bulletin

- 13 June** Optus replaces Ziggy Switkowski with Peter Howell-Davies as CEO.
- 23 June** ACCC releases draft access pricing principles
- 30 June** 1997 telecommunications regulatory scheme commences: primarily, the *Telecommunications Act 1997* and Part XI *Trade Practices Act 1974*.
ACCC issues statement of deemed declared services for telecommunications access.
- 1 July**
 - Optus announces that Cable & Wireless will increase its shareholding from 24.5% to 49% by acquiring all Bell South's shares.
 - AAPT acquires carrier status.
- 2 July** Telstra notifies Minister that it wishes to charge a fee of 50 cents for calls made to directory assistance (013) if the number requested is already correctly listed in the White Pages. Telstra was required to so notify the Minister under section 24 of the *Telstra Corporation Act 1991*. Minister refers matter to the ACCC
- 10 July** Minister announces national transmission network to be sold
- 15 July** Minister announces national framework for on-line content regulation
- 17 July** \$4.5 million apportioned for first 'Networking the Nation' project
- 22 July** ACCC issues access pricing principles guide
- 23 July**
 - Appointments to ACA and ABA announced
 - Calling number display plans unveiled
- 28 July** ACA makes determination requiring service providers (including carriers) to provide pre-selection on a basket of specified calls
- 31 July** ACCC issues declared services information paper