

conditions limited to matters of town planning and public health. The House of Lords held that there was nothing in the Act suggesting any intention to authorise local authorities to go beyond laying down conditions relating to the use of the sites and it was not permissible to regulate the user of the licensee's legal power of letting or licensing caravan spaces.

It is clear that that administrative principle applies to a Minister exercising a statutory discretion as much as it applies to authorities generally - re Toohey (Aboriginal Land Commissioner) ex parte Northern Land Council (1981) 56 ALJR 165.

It may be therefore, if my characterisation of the purpose of the Radiocommunications Act is accurate, that it could be argued that the Minister's power to impose conditions dealing with content in much more than the very broad way imposed by s25(1) (d) of the Radiocommunications Act is exercising a power for a purpose beyond which that power was granted. The Broadcasting and Television Act is legislation that clearly grants that sort of power. The question is - does the Radiocommunications Act?

One suspects that behind all of this lies a question of policy that no one is terribly anxious to grapple with.

Michael J. Owen

This was a paper delivered at the ACLA Seminar on 13 August, 1986 on New Video Entertainment Services. Other papers delivered at this Seminar were published in the Vol. 6 No. 3 (October 1986) issue of the Communications Law Bulletin.

NEW TRIBUNAL VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr Bill Armstrong, the former managing director of Radio 3EON-FM in Melbourne, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal. Mr Armstrong took up his position on 1 December, 1986.

A.C.L.A. - NEWS

At the Annual General Meeting of ACLA on 30 October, 1986 the following office bearers were elected:

Stephen Menzies - Chairman

Michael Law - Vice-Chairman

Victoria Rubensohn - Secretary

Stephen Menzies - Treasurer (on a temporary basis)

Executive Members:

Richard Ackland
Mark Armstrong
Adrian Deamer
Noric Dilanchian
Robyn Durie
Dominique Fisher
Michael Frankel
Leo Gray
Kate Harrison
Catriona Hughes
Paul Marx
Judi Stack
Janet Strickland
Catharine Weigall

MULTIPOINT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS

Expressions of interest from entrepreneurs wanting to distribute video, audio or information material through multipoint distribution systems ("MDS") have been sought by the Government. Such systems use microwave transmitters to distribute video material or data to receivers at specified locations. The systems operate on different frequencies to television services and cannot be received without special equipment. They can stand alone, or operate as part of a hybrid delivery system combined with either satellite or Telecom cable or both. The fee for the transmitter sites in high density radio locations is \$9,000 per annum, and elsewhere \$2,130 per annum. Licences will be granted under the Radiocommunications Act.