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CC:
Subj: policy matters

Issues regarding Questnet connections

1 QUESTNet and AARNet

In my own mind, QUESTNet is the Queensland section of AARNet, and therefore it should operate under similar policies as AARNet. DBIRD has provided funds to upgrade the links without defining any specific terms of use, or at least none that I am aware. Therefore we should look to AARNet policies for precedent and guidance.

2 Usage Policy

AARNet usage policy defines acceptable usage is "all traffic relating to academic and research activities being undertaken by member institutions". This also includes supporting administrative activities. Therefore traffic between different campuses of the one institution would be acceptable AARNet traffic.

3 Conservatorium and Garden Island

Should a link funded by AARNet be used for intra institutional traffic?

The topology of AARNet relies on a number of hub institutions, one per state, and each hub is funded to perform this role, (inadequately no doubt). However, each member institution may introduce an AARNet affiliate, and once an AARNet affiliate access agreement has been signed by the AVCC and the member institution, an affiliate assumes the right to use AARNet facilities subject to the terms of the affiliate agreement. It is these terms that should guide us in the particular instance of intra-institutional traffic. In my opinion, there should be an initial and an annual fee based on such issues as the costs of the initial connection (capital and Telecom costs), and the bandwidth utilised by the affiliate.

Therefore, I would conclude that Griffith and QUT should strike an agreement by which Griffith should compensate QUT for the bandwidth allocated to them between UQ and Garden Island, for the capital cost of connection between the Conservatorium and Garden Island, and for other recurrent costs. The AARNet affiliates agreement could be the model for these terms, and negotiation could set the level of compensation.

Should UQ be compensated? Its use of the links (between QUT and UQ, and Griffith and UQ) will be limited by the additional intra-institutional traffic generated by Griffith. The issue here is whether the State hub is being

compensated adequately for their service role, as well as potential loss of bandwidth, and how that loss will affect the hub institution. The hub will be affected in a similar manner by the addition of an AARNet affiliate to a member institution. I believe that this aspect can be discounted since it is the member institution (QUT) who decides and pays for required bandwidth, over and above the initial bandwidth supplied by AARNet, (ie 48 kbs). However, consideration should be given to UQ for the direct costs associated with the additional intra-campus traffic (if any), eg additional capital expense, or administrative costs.

Other institutions wishing to access QUT could also be disadvantaged by the proposal. I believe this issue can also be discounted for the previous reason.

In conclusion:

- . QUT and Griffith should negotiate an arrangement,
- . Provided there is at least 48 kbs capacity over and above the intra-campus bandwidth, then other institutions should not be concerned,
- . UQ would need to consider any additional costs directly attributable to the intra-campus traffic and charge Griffith accordingly.

It would be interesting to determine how AARNet has dealt with the multicampus, decentralised model of the Catholic University.

4 AARNet / QUESTNet recurrent costs

With respect to annual recurrent costs to be paid by each institution, has there been any proposal as to the relationship between the financial obligations to AARNet, and obligations to Telecom directly arising from the QUESTNet Stage II upgrade? It would appear to me that AARNet should still be obliged to assist in the recurrent costs associated with the 2 mbit links, on a pro-rata basis.

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