To: Alan Coulter
cc: cc-directors.QLD

I have previously offered an opinion that regional groupings are far more
likely to achieve practical goals and concensus on issues as the regional
representatives:
 - meet more often,
 - have common problems (state-based sales and support issues), and
 - seem to work at a critical mass level (more so than CAUDIT appears to do).
Communications options are also introduced on a regional basis (OPTUS phone
services targetted Melbourne and Sydney first; Talkabout is Brisbane only for
now).

Many of the issues for discussion by QUESTNET - requirements for
supercomputing, TAFE, other government and quasi-govt instrumentalities, have
no relevance to Bond, and I have no organisational, personal interest or
experience to contribute. So I will continue to be silent appropriately.

I do not understand the need for QUESTNET to become an affiliate; it seems to
mangle the relationships as we are all individual members. If AARNET agrees to
regional representation, then we should also push for some simple way regional
input can be achieved e.g. by voting where the vote from each region is
weighted by say No. of Institutions or combined EFTSUs. How the QUESTNET vote
is decided in the first place is an internal matter for QUESTNET members to
argue.

On volume charging, ARRNET could have a problem if Bond Uni can't pay a bill -
we issue no open-ended orders for fear of a blow out. We can only spend what
we earn!!

On extending AARNET, perhaps we could discuss the relevance and impact of
offering all secondary schools dial-up access to the nearest AARNET nodes
(library searches, Year 12 computing, interschool & uni e-mail, course info
distribution by unis to the schools).

Greg
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