

Letter to all Old Institutions. VCs & Directors

The Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet), which is being established by the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee (AVCC) and the Australian Committee of Directors and Principals Limited (ACDP), is expected to be operational early in 1990. The network will consist of a national backbone interconnecting State based regional networks.

Each regional network will have a Regional Network Centre hosted by an institution in the State capital. In the case of Queensland, the Centre will be sited at the The University of Queensland. This Centre or Hub houses the equipment which interfaces the regional network into the national backbone, as well as the terminating equipment for the links from each member site.

The AVCC/ACDP recommended that Regional Network Groups be established in each State. "These groups are to include network managers drawn from all higher education institutions and the CSIRO divisions within each State. They are to provide specific definition of the design of Regional Networks and also to provide the framework for subsequent Regional operation and management."

The Queensland Tertiary Institute Network (QTInet), established in 1987, has provided the basis for academic and research networking in this State. It has long been agreed that the QTInet would be integrated into the AARNet when it was implemented. To this end it was agreed at the QTInet Managers Meeting, July 31, 1989, that this committee would be disbanded and reformed to provide the management of the Queensland Regional network of the AARNet. This has resulted in:

- (a) The QUEensland regional network of the AARN will be known as the Queensland Academic and Research Network (QARN). *? QUESTNET.*
- (b) The formation of the QARN Management Committee, consisting of the Directors/Managers of the Computing Centres or Computing Service Units of each member institution. The inaugural chairperson is Mr John Noad, Director, Prentice Computer Centre, The University of Queensland.
- (c) A small Executive of the QARN Management Committee has been established that can meet on a regular basis or as necessary to carry out the policy of the AARN and QARN Management Committee on a daily basis. Membership of the executive is:

John Noad (Chair)	University of Queensland
Bill Fisher	Queensland University of Technology
Alan McMeekin	Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Technology
Graham Rees	(Ex-Officio) Network Operations Group, UQ

- (d) A Network Operations Centre will be established at the University of Queensland as the region host. A representative of this group will be an ex-officio member of the QARN Management Committee and Executive.

Queensland has an established lead in academic networking and the QARN Management Committee is dedicated to continue to provide excellence in networking services in Queensland. For this reason the Management Committee sees advantage in controlling managing QARN locally in Queensland. Some States are not electing to manage their own regional networks, in which case the AARN National Operations Centre will perform this function for them. The AARN Management Committee is ambivalent about who manages the regional networks.

I am writing to advise you about the present status of the AARN and the Queensland region and to seek your support in some specific policy issues as follows:

- (a). The boundaries of responsibility are:

The AARN National body is responsible for the backbone network and any links overseas. The backbone network will have one (only) termination in a region at the regional hub on terminating equipment. The terminating equipment is also the responsibility of the AARN.

The regional body will provide the regional management, equipment and services infrastructure. There will be one (only) connection, including terminating equipment, to the main campus of each participating institution.

Each participating institution is responsible for its own institutional networks.

(b). Relationship of AARN with the Regional Network.

The Queensland region should operate as a separate accounting entity purchasing services from the AARN.

The Queensland region must have representation on AARN equal to other regions.

The Queensland region will be able to provide regionally developed and supported Value Added Services for sale for profit. Such profits may be used for funding further development in the region or reducing the subscription of member institutions.

(c). It is proposed that the regional network be named the Queensland Academic Research Network (QARN). ? QUESTNET

(d). It is proposed that the region perform its own accounting. Members should pay a single contribution to the Regional Management group who will "purchase" services from the AARN.

(e). It is proposed that the Regional Network conform to policy and regulatory requirements of the AARN.