

18 February 1991

Mr Samuel L S Jacoby  
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Dear Mr Jacoby

I refer to the Request for Information (RFI) related to the telecommunications network for the contemplated Australia Supercomputer Network (ASN).

The description of the proposed ASN as outlined in the RFI documents implies an extensive relationship between Australian higher education institutions and ASN. Not only would such a relationship include the sale of ASN services and sale of access to ASN facilities to these institutions, but, as described in the RFI, a close relationship in the operation of an associated communications network.

In connection with this proposed relationship between the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNet) and the contemplated ASNet it is noted that to date Boeing (and other ASN representatives) have met with representatives of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) on only three occasions, for a total of some 6 hours. Informal working meetings with the Technical Manager have been similarly infrequent. The AVCC is not of the opinion that these meetings were conclusive in their outcome.

On this basis the AVCC consider themselves not to be sufficiently informed regarding the position of ASN and ASNet to make any commitment regarding any proposal activity by AARNet with, or on behalf of, ASNet.

Specifically the AVCC is of the opinion that they have fully and frankly described the objectives, role, financial basis, further plans and technical operation of AARNet to the ASN; the same cannot be stated of the information provided by Boeing and the ASN.

Accordingly the AVCC does not feel that it is currently in a position to make any commitment to ASN in relation to the RFI, nor does the AVCC wish to commit to allow any interconnection of AARNet to the contemplated ASNet at this point in time.

The Advisory Board of AARNet will be next meeting on 22 February 1991, and will consider this matter further. If Boeing wish to submit any material to the Advisory Board which Boeing feels may be of relevance to the issues and concerns outlined above, then the Advisory Board would no doubt welcome such a submission.

Yours sincerely,

F S Hambly  
Executive Director

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