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TO	:	Professor B G Wilson Vice-Chancellor, University of Queensland
FROM	:	Peter Saalmans, General Manager AARNet
SUBJECT	:	AARNet Engineering Working Group
DATE	:	10 August 1993

In December 1992, the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee
recommended that an AARNet Engineering Working Group (AEWG) should
be established. The envisaged role of the AEWG will be to provide
technical advice to the AARNet Technical Manager on issues affecting
the performance and future directions of AARNet, as well as being
actively involved in the development and deployment of relevant
internetworking technologies. The AEWG will consist of networking
experts from around Australia working in both open groups and
dedicated work areas based around the network engineering and
network operational agenda of both AARNet and AARNet's academic and
research clients.

The Working Group's activities within Australia are intended to be
self-funded. AEWG members will be expected to meet their own
expenses in attending any meetings and undertaking activities
associated with the group.

To form this group AARNet will be calling a meeting of a number of
acknowledged technical experts in September as an initial steering
group. Those individuals who are included in this group have been
selected on the basis of a demonstrated track record of achievement
and expertise in the area of network engineering. I propose to send
invitations to this meeting to Mr George Michaelson, Prentice
Computer Centre and Mr Mark Williams, Prentice Computer Centre.

It is intended that the track technical developmental activities
will be structured along lines similar to those used by the
Internet Engineering Task Force in the United States and the
RARE Working Groups in Europe, where the agenda is open for
participation by any individual who wishes to participate in the
development of the projects. Such open participation will be
essential in order to make progress on the overall technical agenda.
In assessing those areas where technical developmental effort can
improve the quality and functionality of the AARNet service, it is
anticipated that the technical agenda will include:

-      Electronic Mail operational standards (including MIME and
       8-bit SMTP)
-      Directory Services
-      Resource Discovery tools and their deployment
-      Caching activity (archie.au)
-      Network Access Engineering (dial-up IP and mobile host
       deployment)
-      Routing within AARNet
-      X.25 gateway access

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-     multicast engineering
-     Inter-domain routing
-     Network Registry functions
-     DNS extensions
-     Security and authentication measures
-     CLNP deployment coordination
-     IPng deployment participation
-     Remote Printing deployment

In addition to bringing this AARNet activity to your notice, I would like to ask you to examine the provision of institutional mechanisms which would enable any other appropriately motivated and qualified individuals from your institution to participate in the engineering programs as they take form.

Your support in this endeavour would be appreciated. The formation of the AARNet Engineering Working Group is a significant step in the continued development of AARNet, and will enable us to provide a service which will be relevant to the future requirements of institutions and CSIRO.

Regards

Peter Saalmans

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