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## SUMMARY

This inquiry has found that the Telecommunications package of Bills will effectively regulate the post 1 July 1997 telecommunications regime. This will provide the framework for an open telecommunications market while establishing world class consumer safeguard arrangements.

The Committee has recommended that the package of 11 Bills be passed.

The inquiry, over the period December 1996 to March 1997, received 88 submissions for individuals and organisations and heard evidence from 91 witnesses in Canberra.

The inquiry process produced a number of suggestions regarding the legislative package and the industry's future as a whole.

The Committee has made 64 recommendations, most of which provide for specific amendments to the legislative package. In particular, improvements are proposed in regard to the following matters:

- carrier and service provider regulation;
- the universal service obligation;
- untimed local calls;
- emergency call services;
- privacy matters;
- industry development;
- carriers' powers and immunities;
- competition regulation;
- transitional arrangements;
- reallocation of radiocommunications spectrum;
- the definition of the standard telephone service; and
- specific provisions to facilitate telecommunications access for people with disabilities.

The Committee is confident that the new legislation and amendments proposed in this Report represent an appropriate balance of industry and community interests.