

Connecting You Now...: Telecommunications Towards the Year 2000 by the Senate Economics References Committee (Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia), (Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1995), pp. xxi + 164, A \$19.95, ISBN 0-642-2449-X

The terms of reference for this inquiry included 'the impact on industry, employment and the community of telecommunications developments up to the year 2000 and beyond'. It consists of six chapters dealing with the following themes: background; telecommunications technology; business; opportunities for Australian industry; privacy and security; and the universal service obligation. The Committee makes some 21 recommendations in the report. The scope of the report is quite broad and it provides a summary of recent inquiries into information technology and telecommunications issues in Australia.

Science System: International Benchmarking by the Bureau of Industry Economics, Report 96/2 (Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1996), pp. xxiv + 223, ISBN 0-644-46514-X

This report is the second and main study of three dealing with the performance of Australia's science and technology system. The first report by the BIE was titled *Science Awareness and Understanding* (June 1995) and the second report was *Australian Science: performance from published papers* (January 1996). *Science System* focuses on the comparisons of the inputs, processes and capabilities of the S&T system rather than relying on more simple comparisons of productivity.

Invisible Eyes: Report on Video Surveillance in the Workplace by the Privacy Committee of New South Wales (Privacy Committee of New South Wales, Sydney, 1995), pp. 132, ISBN 0-7310-64410

The purpose of this inquiry was to examine: the justification, nature, extent and purposes of video surveillance in workplaces in New South Wales; whether restrictions should be placed on it; and, any adverse impact of video surveillance on personal privacy. The report has six chapters which cover themes such as regulation, privacy issues and future options. Appendices dealing with guidelines for overt video surveillance in the workplace and data protection principles are included.

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