

## Holiday camp still plagued by phone and fax problems

By BILL MELDRUM

THE telecommunications problems which plagued former Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp operator Alan Smith have continued to beset current owner Darren Lewis.

Mr Smith is a founding member of the Casualties of Telstra (originally known as Casualties of Telecom), formed in 1993.

Members of the group have been involved in a long-running feud with Telstra after having incurred income loss because of various phone faults.

Following pressure being brought to bear by the media and the Opposition, Telstra and Federal Communications Minister Richard Alston announced an Australian Communications Authority inquiry into new material supplied by one of the COT members, Queensland businesswoman Anne Garms.

Mr Lewis said this week he had experienced several problems with the phone and fax service since taking over the Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp late last year.

"We've had instances where we will press the hash 10 star and get nothing, only to do the same a few days later and receive details of a phone call made to us three or four days earlier," he said.

"People will also ring through to us, only to have the phone ring out, yet we are in and at our end the phone is not ringing.

"Often you don't know there is a problem until someone tells you to get your phone fixed."

He said Telstra staff had been friendly and had been trying to resolve the problem.

"Telstra admits there is a fault and they are trying hard to solve it," he said.

"We will be happy once the problem is fixed.

"We are in the accommodation business and people trying to find accommodation tend not to wait when they are seeking somewhere to stay, they will move on to the next place."

# Telecom cops a blast

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**THE Royal Children's Hospital has told a holiday camp operator in Portland that it cannot send chronically ill children there because of Telecom's poor phone service.**

The hospital has banned trips after fears that the children's lives could be at risk in a medical emergency if the tele-

## By CLINTON PORTEOUS, communications reporter

phone service to the Portland camp continued to malfunction.

The centre's stand follows letters from schools, community groups, companies and individuals who have complained about the phone service at Portland's Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp.

Telecom spokesman Mr Keith Anderson says the difficulties have been overcome.

"My understanding is that the problem is fixed," Mr Anderson said.

But the camp owner, Mr Alan Smith, disagreed.

"I have a faulty phone service and I have 38 letters since March to prove it," he said.

Mr Smith said he had been battling the phone company

for five years and claimed he had lost more than \$200,000 in lost business and goodwill.

"The telecommunications regulator, Austel, is investigating the case.

Youths from the Royal Children's Centre for Adolescent Health, who were suffering from "chronic illnesses", visited the camp earlier this year.

Hospital staff were concerned there was no 24-hour

phone service because the phones often broke down and it was impossible to ring outside.

Group leader Ms Louise Rolls said in a letter to the camp the faulty phones had endangered lives and the hospital would not return to the camp unless the phone service could be guaranteed.

A teacher from the Prethman Secondary College, Mr Russ Geddes, stayed at the camp

with school children and later wrote to Mr Smith saying the unreliable phone service was a major "drawback".

Other groups have written saying they cannot get through to Mr Smith on either his standard phone number or his "008" number because it was often "dead", dropped out, was constantly engaged or there was a recorded message saying the number was no longer connected.

# Holiday camp proprietor claims victory

PORTLAND OBSERVER, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1993—Page 5

**HEALTH Camp proprietor Alan Smith, has claimed a major victory against Telecom Australia in the battle over costly service faults.**

Mr Smith - who is one of four original members of COT (Casualties of Telecom) - now believes the groups' long-running struggle with the national telecommunications carrier has been worthwhile, following the publication of a damning report by Coopers and Lybrand.

Their stand has been strengthened by Shadow Federal Communications Minister, Senator Richard Alston, and National Party leader in the Senate, Ron Boswell, who have both publicly stated that Telecom was far from off the hook over the issue of poor

work or equipment on customers' premises, particularly after it became apparent that these were the obvious potential locations for problems.

Senator Alston said it was now being suggested that Bell Canada or another consultant would have to run additional tests on those particular parts of the network. He said the Coalition welcomed a fast-track proposal put forward by Telecom, and that proposed were being put in place which were better affected of the COT cases.

The mechanism for dealing with complaints is also welcome but in view of Telecom's track record to date in this area, it must remain well and truly on probation.

He said he had accepted a proposed fast-track settlement of his claim against Telecom, which recently appointed Telecom's chairman in Warwick Smith, acting as mediator between the two parties.

Mr Smith said his appointment as mediator would be provided in his claim for compensation. "I've been a very busy man, but I've been able to reach me over the telephone, despite repeated attempts."

According to the Australian Telecommunications Authority, ABS-TEL, the three other original COT cases - Graham Schorer, Aime Garmis and Margaret Gillan - had all accepted Telecom's settlement proposal late last month.

Mr Smith said Telecom was now being proactive in the quest to eliminate the faults which have plagued the phone network.

He welcomed a recent announcement that it would channel \$244 million into country Victoria as part of a major new investment program to upgrade its communications network.

Mr Smith said he would meet with the Ombudsman again next week to further discuss the various issues. He said the tools were now available for some worthwhile.

## Laws officer could

## soon get new vehicle

But it stopped short of offering any explanation as to why these obvious deficiencies occurred and continue to occur.

Another major carrier, Bell Canada, was called in to investigate the technical aspects of the

fight now appears to be over.

"I am physically drained by the whole thing.

"It has been estimated that I would've been able

# Haddon & District Community House Inc

R.S.D. H1531 Haddon 3352. Ph. (053) 424 675

6th April 1993



The Editor,  
Herald Sun Newspaper,  
Box 1924R,  
MELBOURNE 3001

Dear Sir,

I am writing in reference to your article in last Friday's Herald/Sun (2nd April) about phone difficulties experienced by businesses.

I wish to confirm that I have had problems trying to contact Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp over the past 2 years.

Our former Youth Worker, Gladys Crittenden, experienced problems before and after organizing a Family camp for January 1992. On several occasions she received a recording notifying her that the number was no longer connected.

I have also experienced problems while trying to organize our Family Camp for September this year. On numerous occasions I have rung from both this business number and also my home number and received no response - dead line.

I also rang around the end of February (1993) and twice was subjected to a piercing noise similar to a fax. I reported the incidence to Telecom who also got the same noise when testing.

Telecom should have a reference to this incident as I was informed that I would not be charged for the two calls.

With constant problems experienced it is lucky that we are aware that there is a problem with the phones and that the business is still operating.

Persistence is the only way of making contact at times. I would not like to think that this was an emergency number that I was trying to contact.

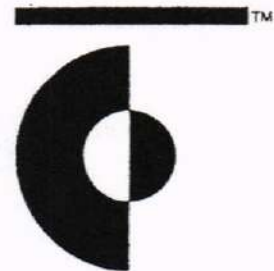
I am also concerned as to how often we are charged for these unsuccessful calls by Telecom. as we do not get an itemised account, we are unable to check.

Yours sincerely,

*Cathy Lindsey*  
Cathy Lindsey,  
Co-ordinator.

28 January 2003

COPY



Telecommunications  
Industry  
Ombudsman

John Pincock  
Ombudsman

Total Pages: 19

Dear

**LEVEL 3 COMPLAINT**

TIO reference: 02/101638-1 - Mc Kenzie

The Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) has received a complaint against Telstra Corporation from Mr & Mrs Darren & Jenny Lewis regarding telephone number 0355267267.

The TIO has raised this complaint at level 3 because of the complexity of the complaint and likelihood that extensive testing may be required. Mr & Mrs Lewis have advised the TIO that they have an on-going complaint with Telstra Corporation in relation to their telephone service and have as yet been unable to resolve this matter. The TIO has invested time assessing Mr & Mrs Lewis' correspondence and believes that further investigation is warranted.

Mr & Mrs Lewis claim in their correspondence attached:

- That they purchased the Cape Bridgewater Coastal Camp in December 2001, but since that time have experienced a number of issues in relation to their telephone service, many of which remain unresolved.
- That a Telstra technician "Mr Tony Watson" is currently assigned to his case, but appears unwilling to discuss the issues with Mr Lewis due to his contact with the previous Camp Owner, Mr Alan Smith.
- That on 27 September 2002 "Ian" advised him that an EMG was causing the faults at the local exchange and that a technician would be sent out to fix this.
- That on 28 September 2002 "Renea" advised him that that the local exchange could only handle a certain amount of traffic, that there was nothing that Telstra Corporation could do about the problem and that this problem was not new to Cape Bridgewater.
- That Telstra Corporation advised him on 26 November 2002 that the phone extension wiring was laid too shallow and was not installed correctly, thus it believed that Telstra Corporation had not installed that wiring. Mr Lewis also claims that it was suggested that the line had been tampered with.
- That Mr Alan Smith had provided him with documents confirming that Telstra Corporation did all the cabling and wiring in question.
- That the phone problems have decreased dramatically since Telstra Corporation rewired the business on 9 December 2002 and disconnected the phone alarm bell, however he is still

*"providing independent, just, informal, speedy resolution of complaints."*

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experiencing intermittent problems with receiving calls, and continued to have problems with his fax line.

- That Telstra Corporation have checked his fax machine and confirmed that it is working correctly.
- That he believes that as the same problem has been experienced when attempting to send or receive faxes from a number of locations, it is unlikely that the fault is with the other party's fax machine.
- That the problems experienced resulted in the frustration of his clients being unable to contact him to make bookings for his camp and are affecting the profitability of his business.

Mr Lewis has outlined a number of these problems on page 3 of his correspondence attached. In particular, Mr Lewis has identified the following concerns:

- That he has been contacted by a number of people advising that the telephone had not been answered when ringing previously, despite Mr Lewis' assertion that someone was there at the time.
- That many faxes sent to his potential clients have not been received at the intended destinations, despite his fax transmission records confirming that the fax had been successfully sent. Furthermore, Mr Lewis claims that he has been charged for each of these calls.
- That he has experienced problems receiving faxes from his clients.
- That when he uses \*10# to retrieve missed phone calls, he is sometimes given numbers from days before which had not registered earlier.
- That people had reported that when attempting to call Mr Lewis' business they first hear a message that the telephone has been disconnected, but when trying again are connected through on the same number.
- That when picking up the receiver to make a call, he had intermittently heard another person's conversation quite clearly.
- That on 25 October 2002 a caller reported that when trying to contact Mr Lewis earlier, he heard only clicking noises on the telephone line, but the call did not connect.
- That a caller reported that they had called and heard an engaged signal, despite Mr Lewis having call waiting activated on the service to prevent missed calls.
- That another caller reported that every time he called he received a fax connection tone.
- That on 13 November 2002 he picked up the receiver and heard a deep breathing sound but no dial tone.

The TIO asks Telstra Corporation to present its perspective on the complaint.

If Telstra Corporation decides that the complainant's claims have merit after reviewing the complaint, how does Telstra Corporation propose resolving the complaint?

If Telstra Corporation is of the view that there is no merit to some or all aspects of this complaint, please provide reasons for its view, identifying any facts in dispute. In addition, please supply all documentation relevant to the complaint. In particular, please provide:

- All Customer Care Notes for the account
- All Fault Reports for the account
- Telstra Corporation's assessment of whether Mr Lewis is entitled to compensation under the Customer Service Guarantee in relation to any of the faults reported above. Please include its reasons for the assessment for each fault reported.

The TIO has forwarded a copy of this letter to the complainant and asked them to pay any undisputed charges. While this complaint is under consideration, the TIO expects that Telstra Corporation will suspend credit management on any disputed charges.

The TIO may also forward Telstra Corporation's response to the complainant. For this reason, please ensure that it is written in plain English.

Please forward your reply to this letter within the next 28 days. The TIO may escalate the complaint to Level 4 status if Telstra Corporation does not respond to the TIO within this time frame or provide information requested.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of this complaint.

Yours sincerely



Gillian Mc Kenzie  
**Investigations Officer**

Commonwealth of Australia  
STATUTORY DECLARATION  
Statutory Declarations Act 1959

I, ~~Darren Lewis~~ <sup>DARREW</sup> William Lewis  
OF 1721 Blowhole rd Cape Bridgewater VIC  
Make the following declaration under the Statutory Declarations Act 1959

The following chronology can be supported by documentation which I have on file.

**PHONE & FAX PROBLEMS**

1. I purchased the Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp (now Cape Bridgewater Coastal Camp) December 2001.
2. Within a week or so of taking over the business from Alan Smith, friends and new clients were stating they could not get through to us on successfully on the phone.
3. By mid 2002, my wife Jenny and I realised we were having major problems with in-coming calls and our out-going faxes were a major problem.
4. From discussions with the previous owners Jenny and I now fully understood that we had inherited some of the phone and fax faults Mr Smith had been reporting for some time.
5. Letters from us to our local Federal Member of Parliament, the Hon David Hawker, Speaker in the House of Representatives, led to Telstra visiting our business to investigate these continuing problems.
6. In November 2002, after Telstra realised there was in fact a Telstra related problem and not (customer related equipment) they informed us that the new wiring they were installing was worth thousands of dollars but not to worry as Telstra would pick-up the cost.
7. After Telstra rewired the business including disconnecting a Telstra installed faulty phone alarm bell, we were informed Telstra had found other problems and believed who ever had installed the wiring had done an unprofessional job.
8. Internal Telstra documentation provided to me by Allan Smith confirmed Telstra themselves had done the wiring.
9. Jenny and I noticed that although our incoming-call rate had more than doubled once this rewiring had taken place Telstra was still unable to provide a satisfactory reason as to why we were still having problems.
10. Telstra connected fault finding equipment called Customer Access Call Analysis (CCAS) to 55-267267 business line.
11. This CCAS data recorded numerous faults that could not be explained by the (Level Three) Telstra fault managers. Hand written notations on some of these CCAS data sheets, confirm even the Telstra technicians themselves were aware of the ongoing problems.
12. By 2004, with the problems not resolved I again sought help through the Hon David Hawker.
13. Correspondence from Mr Hawker in August 2004, confirms Telstra had advised him that the local un-manned exchange was soon to be upgraded.
14. From 2004 until most recently still no upgrades.
15. In August this year we contacted Mr Hawker's office regarding the ongoing problems and advised his staff we have no real alternative but to sell the business.
16. Because we were with AAPT and it appeared they had no control over the faults being experienced we changed back to Telstra.

D Lewis

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17. From Tuesday to Thursday evening (August 2006), Telstra technicians were present at the Holiday Camp and surrounding area attempting to locate and fix the problems they had experienced themselves.
18. During this three day period even Telstra's own technicians couldn't understand why their own fault testing equipment was malfunctioning.
19. Telstra informed us we had what is commonly known in technical words as (a line in line lock-up rendering our business phone useless until the fault is fixed.

The technicians then in hook up consultation with outside office guru's did a fault graph reading on our 55 267267 line with the outcome that their office technical staff stated words to the affect the reading was impossible (couldn't be correct). It was then that the local technician became quite annoyed when the technical guru insinuated that the equipment the local tech was using must be faulty. The local tech then informed the technical guru that there was nothing wrong with the equipment at all.

It was then that the local technician informed me that as strange as it might seem he believed that because our business was on optical fibre and was so close to the Beach Kiosk (junction box) this could very well be part of the problem. Apparently either under powering over powering was also an issue. He realised that after testing all the other optical fibre outlets with his testing equipment and still reached this impossible reading (according to the technical guru), he would have to move us off the fibre.

It was on this note that the technician informed me that although it was a back ward step he was going to investigate the possibility of moving the business off the optical fibre and back on to the 'old copper wiring'.

After investigating this possibility our business was then moved back onto the 'old copper wiring'. The above is more evidence of the continuation of the phone and fax problems my wife and I inherited when we purchased our business.

AND I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of an Act of the Parliament of Victoria rendering persons making a false declaration for wilful and corrupt perjury.  
**DECLARED** at *Portland* in the

State of Victoria this

day of *Fourth day* two thousand } *D. Lewis*

and *Sept 2006*

Before me *[Signature]*  
*Stewart Graham Herbison*  
 Constable of Police 34273.  
 Portland Police Station -  
 Albany Street Portland.

*10-F*



**CAPE BRIDGEWATER**  
**HOLIDAY CAMP**

**REVIEW OF DOCUMENTATION**

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

**Brian Hodge, B Tech; MBA  
(B.C. Telecommunication)**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

I Brian Hodge having over forty years experience in telecommunications as a technician, Tech Office, Engineer & Manager (refer appendix 1), has been requested to examine a quantity of documentation relating to the services delivering to the Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp (CBHC) at Cape Bridgewater.

In addition, to examine documentation that relate to the testing of services to the CBHC undertaken by Telstra/Telecom Australia and Bell Canada International (BCI).

I have been requested, based on the personal experience in the field, to comment on the reports, testing technique utilised, and other aspects relating to services delivery to CBHC.

A variety of testing techniques and call reporting systems were employed as the basis for the reports & documents prepared by Telstra/Telecom Australia.

## 2. TESTING SYSTEMS & RECORDING

A quantity of testing system were employed & consisted of the following:

### 2.1. TCARS/TRT

The TEST CALL ANSWER RELAY SET is utilised for remotely testing the transmission performance of a telephone circuit in both directions, where the operator controls the tests from one end.

The TCAR set is fitted in the automatic exchange & permanently connected to a subscriber number (ie. Fixed test number). The TCAR can therefore be called automatically from an outgoing testing facility (eg Traffic Route Tester – TRT) in any exchange.

The TRT tests are made by dialling a distant exchange (TCAR) number & performing a number of tests. The TRT operate in either of two modes.

- a. Observed service performance runs;
- b. Fault hold & trace runs

The TRT causes the TCAR to respond in a predetermined manner, and appropriate measurements of network performance can be determined.

One purpose of the TCAR is to ensure that the planned transmission losses are within specified limits.

To enable the fully testing cycle to be achieved, the period between seizure & release of the TCAR is a fixed 24 seconds.

## 2.2. PTARS

The portable equivalent to TCARS is the Portable Tone Answer Relay Set (PTARS).

The PTAR is a "Portable" testbox attached to a line location at a "terminating" exchange to provide answer supervision for test calls (refer BCI Addendum Report – Glossary).

As to the PTARs carries out the same functions as TCARS, the seizure – release time is equivalent.

## 2.3. NEAT Testing

Network Evaluation and Test System (NEAT) is an Ericsson designed & built testing system.

The system conducts transmissions & continuity tests between dedicated network test units.

"Each test call is held for 100 seconds to conduct transmission test & to detect drop outs" (ref. Telstra doc K35002).

The dedicated Network test unit is connected to the selected test number in the selected exchange line appearance.

Each test call takes 100 seconds to complete (refer K35002).

## 2.4. Call Event Monitoring

Dedicated test equipment (eg. ELMI event recorder) is provided at the customer's premises.

Hence, this device records all activities relating to the customer telephone handset such as;

- a. Handset lift off
- b. Outgoing call
- c. No. dialled
- d. Incoming ring
- e. Answer time
- f. Call/handset off duration
- g. Call time

As this device is located at the customers premises, no exchange call data can be recorded.

#### 2.5. Call Charge Analysis System

The Call Charge Analysis System (CCAS) is not a testing system but a call recording system. It is primarily used to provide information to enable billing to occur.

The system records & analyses the incoming & outgoing calls specifically:

- a. Incoming call time
- b. Incoming call status (eg. answer or non-answer)
- c. Outgoing call time
- d. Outgoing call dialling
- e. Termination time

This system is associated with the main NODE or switching exchange (eg. Warrambool - WBOX for Portland & Cape Bridgewater Service area).

However, to prevent unnecessary data capture, short system seizure are not recorded unless three or more digits are dialled.

This can result in discrepancies between exchanged based (CCAS) data & customer end data (eg. ELMI).

Therefore, "Phantom calls" to the customer services may not be detected or recorded by the CSAS. (Phantom calls are calls generated by the network equipment usually resulting from a fault condition. The call causes an individual customer/subscriber or maybe a group of customers telephone to ring. When answered no calling party exists and maybe dial tone is received or no tone at all)

### 3. NETWORK TOPOLOGY

3.1. The network is made up of a hierarchy of exchanges. However, the type and selection of the specific connecting equipment depends on the number of customers in a cluster, and the distance of this cluster from the node or terminal exchange.

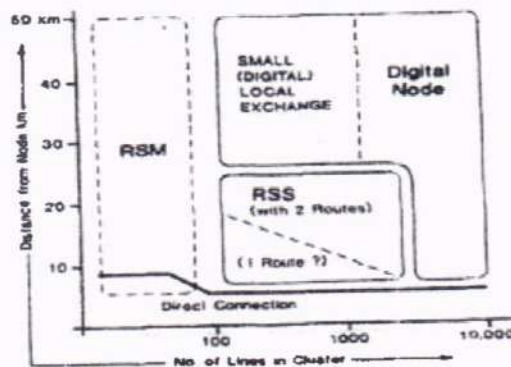


FIG. 13. CHOICE OF EQUIPMENT FROM DISTANCE

(Refer Telecom Aust, Engineer Development Program, Technical Publication TPH 1176, FIG.13)

Customers near the node can be directly connected. Small group of greater distances can be connected by "Remote Subscriber Multiplexer" (RSM) (the term RSM was later changed by Telstra to RCM – Remote Customer Multiplexing when the term Subscriber was replaced by Customer. The term RSM has been used in this report as it was the term utilised at the time in question) over a primary digital line system. Large clusters are best served by "remote switching stage" (RSS).

The RSS equipment being used extensively to make digital SWITCHING available in remote areas.

The RSM being used to make digital SERVICES available in remote areas.



The RSM, as the name implies, is a multiplexer connected to a distant termination exchange via a primary\* PCM transmission system. The RSM is NOT an exchange but is a "concentrator" of services. The primary function of the RSM is to:-

- a. Provide current feed to subscriber line
- b. Detection of telephone hook state
- c. Sending tones & ringing signal
- d. Ring tripping
- e. 2/4 wire conversion
- f. Analogue to Digital conversion
- g. Reception of dial pulses

The RSM DOES NOT

- a. Undertake any analysis of the call
- b. Carry out network switching
- c. Carry out call charging
- d. Carry out local call switching
- e. Provide service numbers

All of these activities are undertaken in the terminal or network node.

Local calls between subscribers on a RSM result in "trombone trunking" of the call from and to the RSM AFTER switching has occurred.

(trombone trunking is a term used to describe the switching of local call traffic generated by equipment that has no analysis capabilities locally. All calls are immediately trunked to the main or higher exchange for analysis and all local calls are then sent back to the originating system for termination of the call. The path of the call therefore resembles the musical instrument the trombone)

The RSM is a true multiplexer extending a small number of subscriber appearance via a digital 30 channel PCM Link from the terminal switching

exchange to the remote subscriber cluster. (a multiplexer is a means of combining a number of services or circuits typically in multiples of 30, over one operational trunk or circuit. The multiplexer concentrates or condenses the circuits or services into a bearer trunk that enables simplified transmission of the service)

### 3.2. Primary Digital System

Digital Transmission Systems are arranged into a hierarchy of digital application based on equivalent channel capacity. The base application being the primary systems with the equivalent channel capacity of 30 channels.

The input being "voice frequency" (voice frequency is an analogue waveform typically 200hz – 3,000hz) & output 2.048 kbits/sec.

This application operating over typical standard pair cable or radio links.

#### **4. NETWORK SIGNALLING**

##### **4.1. Common Channel Signalling (CCS 7)**

Common Channel Signalling based on CCITT signalling system No. 7 (CCS 7) is used for inter-exchange telephone call signalling within the network.

The CCS network is a packet switch data network designed to provide reliable & speedy transfer of call control and other messages for the telecommunication network.

CCS is also used for non-telephony applications & advanced telephony services, such as network management & services that require translation of the called/calling party identity at centralised databases (eg. billing database). Users of the CCS network are connected at locations known as Signalling Points (SP).

The CCS network is composed of links connecting the nodes known as Signal Transfer Points (STP). Each SP is connected to at least two STP. The STP is also a SP.

Therefore digital exchanges are connected to the CCS via a SP and STP depending on its over hierarchy status.

However only digital systems (eg. switching exchanges & digital nodes) are connected & controlled by the CCS network.

##### **4.2. Analogue Signalling**

Signalling within the analogue network is/was via Multi-Frequency Code & T&G signalling system.

The analogue system & the signalling system utilised are/were not connected to the CCS network.

Both the signalling systems had the primary function to transfer called number data through the network to enable SWITCHING of the telephone call.

(Switching is the functional carried out by the telephone network, based on the calling data or numbers dialled, to direct the call over trunks and circuits to the determined end destination. This switching action can take place through a single or multiple exchanges depending on the number dialled and the network infrastructure).

Where no call switching occurs CCS7 system is NOT provided.

## 5. DOCUMENTATION REVIEW

A quantity of documentation relating the testing of the service to and from the Cape Bridgewater area was examined. The documents related to the specifics of the test reported to have been undertaken as well as the Call Charge reports associated with services at Cape Bridgewater Holiday Camp.

A quantity of Telstra, Austel, Bell Canada International Reports were examined during the process. However the examination was by no means limited to the documents mentioned. Other Telecom Australia/Telstra documents were also examined as necessary to assist in the process.

### 5.1. Cape Bridgewater

The system located at Cape Bridgewater is a Remote Subscriber Multiplexer (RSM). This is NOT an exchange and as such DOES NOT:

- a. Switch call traffic
- b. Analyse call data (eg numbers)
- c. Carry out call metering
- d. Provide any network intelligence
- e. Provide any subscriber monitoring.

As such the "number range" allocated to Cape Bridgewater resides at the Portland exchange. Numbers are therefore allocated at Portland & "extended" to Cape Bridgewater. Multiplexing a number of services over single transmission bearer using PCM technology, is the method of delivery of services to Cape Bridgewater RSM.

Therefore TCARS/PTAR connected to the test number 055 267 211 are within the Cape Bridgewater number range BUT this is physically located as part of the Portland exchange. The RSM has NO number range, this being allocated at the "parent" exchange (ie. Portland). (This is verified in document N00005 (A63152) paragraph 2+6.)

## 5.2. Common Channel Signalling (CCS7)

Common Channel Signalling No.7 DOES NOT appear or function at Cape Bridgewater RSM. As no switching, analysis, or billing take place CCS7 is not required.

However a similar signalling system operates on the PCM multiplexing transmission system between Portland & Cape Bridgewater BUT is NOT connected to or forms any part of the CCS network.

The purpose of this signalling link to maintain a functional transmission & multiplexing system.

Document K04555 paragraph 4 indicate that CCS 7 was only used to monitor calls to Portland via the Warrnambool node (agin 1993/94).

During the CCS7 network monitoring process, no calls within the Portland area were observed (refer Telstra document K04555 – CCS7 at time 1994, was only utilised on calls from Warrnambool AXE to Portland Axe, NOT during locals within the Portland area) . Indicating that the CCS7 network monitoring undertaken DID NOT take place in Portland, nor Cape Bridgewater systems or equipment.

As the CCS network transits the call through the network no CCS7 link existed from Warrnambool to Portland at this time (eg. 1993/4).

During the early 1990's (eg. 1993), the rollout of AXE & the CCS network was still expanding. NOT all links to within Portland utilised the CCS network for signalling purposes. MFC signalling was utilised in Portland (as CCS7 was not utilised in Portland at this time as mentioned previously, MFC was the signalling system still operational having been utilised as part of the ARF system that was the major component of the network at that time ).

Therefore collection of CCS7 data & the associated reporting of the network performance when related to services connected to Cape Bridgewater RSM. was inconclusive & flawed, as it only enable parts of the network hierarchy to be monitored at this time. Where network upgrading had not been completed or implemented the old signalling system were still operational and required for network operation. The monitoring techniques utilised for CCS7 were not applicable or relevant to the existing and obsolete systems and technologies.

### 5.3. Test Calls

The documentation indicated that in the region of 13,000+ test calls were placed to the test numbers nominated (eg. Portland number range).

These test calls were undertaken by Bell Canada International (BCI) and by Telstra Network Operations (NEAT testing).

#### 5.3.1. BCI Testing

The BCI tests were primarily from Traffic Route Test located across the network to TCARS/PTARS connected to 055 267 211. As indicated previously, the testing time for such calls is typically 24+ seconds (minimum). The actual time being 43.9 seconds (ref doc. N00006).

The analysis of times indicated for ALL tests reported from all TRT's listed, reveals major conflict in call traffic to the test numbers. Test times allocated from specific originating exchanges were in conflict with other simultaneous calls made from other locations. As the same test terminating number was also allocated to multiple originating testing (TRT) units, serious levels of call conflict would naturally occur.

Such significant (this is significant as the level of simultaneous call generation as documented could and would result in call conflict generating a HIGH level of fault reports during the testing regime) overlap of testing time & testing period WOULD result in high levels of call failures due to congestion, & busy number. (simultaneous calls to the same number where only 1 call can be successful MUST and WILL result in a large number of call failures being recorded – the test call is not successful – CALL FAILURE)

No such failures were reported. Hence the only realistic technical conclusions that can be derived are that the indicated tests were:



- a. Not undertaken
- b. Incorrectly recorded and documented – fraudulently or accidental it is not possible to tell as replication of the tests is not possible nor that the original test notes are not available for analysis
- c. Testing periods flawed and were not undertaken as specified
- d. Testing processes flawed and calls to different terminating numbers were undertaken
- e. Testing processes incomplete – when call conflict was noted the tests were abandoned and results incorrectly documented

### 5.3.2. NEAT Testing

As indicated, the NEAT test requires:

- a. Installation of NEAT test units to a dedicated test number.
- b. Test calls held for minimum of 100 seconds.

The test numbers being located in the Portland exchange (number range allocated for Cape Bridgewater subscribers).

The allocated test number being 055 267 211, being the same number allocated for test calls as part of the Bell Canada International testing regime.

Discrepancies associated with the NEAT testing include:

- a. Timing of recorded test are in conflict with the TRT test from numerous exchange – utilising same test numbers over same test period. (as mentioned in section 5.3.1 high levels of call failure would have been recorded with such call conflict – this was NOT recorded therefore major discrepancies in the testing and reporting process has been identified)

- b. NEAT testing unit does not utilise the TCAR/PTAR terminating set (as NEAT test is a Ericsson designed system it utilises a dedicated terminating set. This set is not the same unit as the TCARS/PTAR. The TCARS/PTAR is not compatible with the NEAT testing system

The results of the test do NOT record any level of "busy connection" (calls failing due to simultaneous calls to the test answering unit) as would be expected (eg encountering busy number) from the high level of duplicated calls to the test number.

Similarly, the call terminating set utilised is not the same unit specified for the two different test regimes occurring at identical time period. Hence for simultaneous calls to be made to the same terminating number from two different testing systems the terminating set would have to be change for calls from both system to be successful. The time period for all calls from both originating systems makes this impossible to achieve

The results from both testing regimes are therefore:

- a. Flawed – as simultaneous calls by two disparate systems to the same number is impossible to achieve
- b. Lack creditability – results cannot be replicated nor can the raw data be examined
- c. Dishonestly reported - to achieve the results as document significant fabrication of the document and report would be necessary.

and as such fail to meet the stated operational standard & quality contrary to the claims stated in the reports to Austel dated 10 November 1993 (Telstra doc K35002), BCI Report of 10 November 1993, and others.

### 5.3.3. 008/1800 Testing

Under the Service Verification Testing (SVT) testing of the 008 Service, terminating on service number 055 267 267, a number of calls were made via the new 1800 service terminating on service number 055 267 298.

During the early 1990's when the 008 service was being replaced by 1800, two separate and completely different networks were in operation. Both calls through the 008 & 1800 networks would translate to the customers end service.

The 1800 used the IN Network (Intelligent Network), and is via digital network. Concurrently, the 008, which was superseded by the 1800 was via the analogue (plus digital as necessary) network. Hence dual trunking of calls was occurring (that is calls via the 008 and 1800 service both terminated at the same destination BUT the route take by both calls were via two entirely different paths and equipment-hence no comparisons of call processes were accurate or possible.

Similarly separate billing systems were operating.

Therefore calls via the 008 & 1800 network were completely separate & different. To claim that a 1800 call is equivalent to a 008 call & translating to a different number is completely false & erroneous.

All tests carried out on the 1800 network are rejected as being irrelevant to the issue. Telstra was aware of the changes as the old obsolete 008 network was to be removed under Telstra network replacement plans & the fact that the calls were via old (008) and new (1800) technologies. Hence dual trunking of the calls was occurring, and did so for approximately 18 months to ensure that the amount of 008 calls could be reduced by advertising and documentation change by the customers.

#### 5.4 Call Event Monitoring

Monitoring of services at the subscribers premises is obtained only when specialised equipment is provided such as call detail recording systems or ELMI event recorders.

Calls being made to the service number are recorded. Any activity (eg ringing, handset lift off, dialling etc) is recorded in real time as it occurs. All activity associated with the handset (event) is recorded

All activity at the subscribers premises is recorded, including short derivation incoming calls to the service number – eg. phantom calls (refer section 2.5).

Although acknowledge in the report no formal investigation appears to have been undertaken as no testing of services or data error rate testing of the multiplexing equipment was mentioned or recommended.

As the RSM equipment is a multiplexing of services via a PCM system from Portland, the failure of Telstra to carry out suitable & professional testing (eg. bit error rate tests of multiplexing system & link etc) is a serious concern as this is a basic system check and only this level of testing on such digital equipment will verify if the system is operating correctly. If such test are not undertaken the correct operation of that system and all related equipment cannot be guaranteed.

High or abnormal error rate can & will impact on the operation of the RSM equipment for both incoming & outgoing calls but generating or losing vital operational data. Such data loss can manifest in a numerous number of ways from generating fictitious (phantom) calls or more serious loss of call and call data

As the function of the RSM is to signal the service telephone & convert analogue (voice) to digital code, inferior performance of the equipment (including transmission system) would have detrimental impact on the overall operation & service delivery on both incoming & outgoing calls.

It is my opinion the failure of Telstra to undertake such tests (no evidence exists to confirm any such tests take place), is an indication of their failure to delivery/confirm the "service quality" to Cape Bridgewater.

### 5.5. Call Charge Analysis (CCAS)

Incoming & outgoing call traffic is recorded at the node (eg. Warrnambool) to allow billing of successful calls to take place.

Extensive examination of the available reports (Call Charge Analysis reports) was undertaken. These reports are produced for all incoming and outgoing calls and forms the basis of the Telstra billing system data for each customer

Areas of interest were the "Service Verification Tests" (SVT) reported to have taken place from the following services:

055 267 267

055 267 60

055 267 230

Twenty calls from each service number listed above were reported to have taken place.

Austel (Austel doc 94/0268 of 11 October 1994, 16 November 1994 and 9 November 1994) had specified the test calls (all 20/service) had to be "held" for a minimum of 120 seconds to ensure adequate testing time elapsed, and hence transmission quality is confirmed or measured.

Examination of the CCAS printout for the day specified (29 Sept 1994):

20 calls from each service number DID NOT take place;

The calls attempted WERE NOT held for the prescribed 120 seconds;

NO incoming test calls were made to the services in question. The CCAS printout for the period DO NOT indicate any calls to or from the service numbers in question. As this data is used for billing purposes ALL such call activity must be recorded

It is my opinion that the reports submitted to Austel on this testing program was flawed, erroneous, fictitious, fraudulent & fabricated, as it is clear that not such testing has taken place as Telstra's own call charge system DOES NOT record any such activities. Therefore the results are flawed or did not occur.

From these conclusions the statutory declarations by Gamble & others must be considered to be questionable and may be considered to be incorrect to say the least.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The regime of test calls established to verify the quality of the services at Cape Bridgewater must be considered to flawed and erroneous.

The fact that overlap of test calls from numerous locations & types of tests to specific test numbers indicates a serious flaw in the testing process, or simply that the tests were not carried completed successfully as stated.

As the Cape Bridgewater RSM is not a telephone exchange, no replicable tests were carried out to verify the conditions being experienced by the subscribers.

The so called tests reported to have taken place at Cape Bridgewater RSM cannot be verified by examination of the normal exchange based call data, neither incoming or outgoing. In addition, the failure to carry out the number & duration of the prescribed tests (eg. 20 calls per service, each held for 120 seconds), indicate the erroneous & fraudulent nature of the report to Austel.

The failure of Telstra to carry out standard performance tests (eg. bit error rate etc), at the multiplexer (RSM) at Cape Bridgewater is alarming & of concern. CCAS data over recent times (eg. 2004-2006), indicate a continuing & worsening level of "Outgoing Released During Setup" calls (ORDS). These reports on the CCAS data indicate that the calls are not successful in the call set up stage of the connection or is lost in the network

Such reports would indicate that the service was operating in a very unsatisfactory manner. The common factor being the multiplexer system & digital link, Portland exchange or subscriber usage.

However, the continuing report of phantom calls, lost faxes & missed calls ALL point to the network including the RSM at Cape Bridgewater being the source of the problem. As a significantly bit error rate in the data network can present it self to the end user in many different ways. Unfortunately all being a degradation of services

Telstra's failure to carry out detailed technical testing of the system, or to fabricated TRT calls to services not located at the source of the problem (eg, RSM) is negligent.

As the test cannot be reproduced or verified by an independent body, Telstra has failed to meet basic Professional Standards. As such, the results are flawed, erroneous & fraudulent.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

**BRIAN HODGE, B. Tech, MBA**  
**(B.C. Telecommunication)**



## **7.0 Appendix 1**

### **Mr. Brian Hodge Btech. (Electronics), MBA (Uof A).**

- Mr. Hodge has been involved in all facets of the telecommunications industry for over 40 years.
- Mr. Hodge commenced with the PMG in Adelaide in 1961 as a technician in training. This was a 5-year specialist industry based training scheme at the time recognized as the leading course of its type in Australia.
- After completion of the training Mr. Hodge, experienced all fields of technical work including system installation and maintenance.
- In the late 1960s Mr. Hodge moved to what was then classified as the sub/para professional ranks as a technical officer and draftsman. Then able to gain experience in medium to large design and installation projects. This included total project control and management.
- From 1970 Mr. Hodge commenced and completed tertiary studies at the University of South Australia (formerly the Institute of Technology) initially in the degree (Bachelor of Technology) specialising in electronic engineering.
- The last three years of this course was completed under a trainee engineer position awarded to Mr. Hodge.
- From the mid 1970 to the mid 1980s Mr. Hodge held various engineering positions in Telecom Australia (now Telstra) covering all disciplines within the organisation.
- With changes in the market place especially in the terminal products field, Telecom Australia introduced to the Australian market new generation products that are now accepted as the minimum requirements for business.
- Mr. Hodge was selected to lead and operate a division to introduce the new range of products to the market place and re-educate the technical, sales and support staff in use and support of the products(s). This was a major change in direction not only for Telecom Australia (Telstra) but also the market place and the customers.
- During this time Mr. Hodge commenced and completed, on a part time basis (after hours only) a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Adelaide. The Masters Degree being awarded in 1986.

- From 1986 Mr. Hodge was appointed in to senior management in Telecom Australia directly and indirectly responsible for more the 500 staff through out South Australia and Northern Territory.
- In December 1990 Mr. Hodge left Telecom Australia and started Beta-Com Pty Ltd as a consultancy and facilities management company. Beta-Com has recently diversified into Audio Visual and Video Conferencing systems.
- Since deregulation of the telecommunications market in Australia Mr. Hodge has been involved in a number of companies covering both carrier service and terminal products. All companies have successfully traded for minimum of 8 years and have been or are in the process of being purchased by larger and more diverse organisations.
- Mr. Hodge commenced Digital Communication Systems in 1999 and selected and marketed a range of products and services to the Adelaide market.
- Digital Communication Systems in 2007 merged with a national company based in Sydney
- Mr. Hodge is now the Adelaide based Business Development Executive for this group.