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Strategies for the development of standards for digital video and associated services

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STRATEGIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS FOR DIGITAL VIDEO AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES

SAA/SNZ MP74:1996

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PREFACE

This strategy document was prepared by a Task Group established by the Joint Australia/New Zealand Electrotechnology Standards Policy Board and the document is published under the Board's auspices. The Digital Video Services Task Group was established to investigate the Standards and standards development strategies necessary for the delivery of open-access digital video services

The document was prepared, inter alia, to highlight the role Standards can play in overcoming the pitfalls of engaging in the piecemeal development of what will ultimately become a very complex delivery system for many services, some as yet unknown. It proposes a series of steps which Australia and New Zealand need to take to ensure that adequate Standards processes are in place to support the wide range of digital services that are foreseen. The document emphasises that appropriate and effective Standards are fundamental to the realization of the full range of commercial and entertainment benefits which are perceived as 'possible' with the emerging digital communications technologies.

While the work was started in Australia and New Zealand without the benefit of the full knowledge of the work which was going on in other groups in other parts of the world, the model of the service delivery system which has now emerged matches very closely the models which had been developed elsewhere. In addition, the strategy document draws heavily on the overseas Standards that have already been developed, in the digital television context. This alignment with international Standards development accords with Australia's commitment to the Technical Barriers to Trade Code of the World Trade Organisation.

The strategy document is presented to act as a guide for standards implementation in Australia and New Zealand, with the confidence that the direction proposed is closely aligned with the developments in other countries yet that it is flexible enough to accommodate as yet unknown services.

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