



THE REPORTS ON JUSTICE BEAUMONT'S DECISION IN APPLE V. COMPUTER EDGE AND ON THE NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT IN THIS ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS.

AS THIS ISSUE WENT TO PRESS, THE FULL COURT OF THE FEDERAL COURT HANDED DOWN ITS DECISION IN APPLE V. COMPUTER EDGE, UPHOLDING APPLE'S COPYRIGHT CLAIM BY A 2/1 MAJORITY. COMPUTER EDGE IMMEDIATELY APPEALED TO THE HIGH COURT.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL GARETH EVANS, CITING CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY IN THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY UNTIL THE HIGH COURT APPEAL WAS RESOLVED, THEN INTRODUCED THE COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT ACT 1984, WHICH GIVES SOFTWARE THE SAME PROTECTION AS LITERARY WORKS.

SENATOR EVANS, STRESSING THAT THIS WAS ONLY A SHORT-TERM SOLUTION, SAID THAT "THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW PROCEED AS A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY TO A CONSIDERATION OF POLICY FOR THE LONG TERM THROUGH AN APPROPRIATE FORM OF INQUIRY". ONE OF THE LONG-TERM OPTIONS FLOATED BY SENATOR EVANS WAS THAT COPYRIGHT PROTECTION FOR OBJECT CODE BE LIMITED TO ONLY 5 YEARS. HE WAS SCEPTICAL OF PUBLIC FUNDING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO COPYRIGHT, THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY ALBERT LANGER IN THIS ISSUE.

IT IS CLEAR THAT 'THE GREAT SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT DEBATE' IS FAR FROM OVER. CONSEQUENTLY, A **SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER** IS NOW IN PREPARATION. IT WILL CONTAIN A REPORT ON THE FULL COURT DECISION, THE TEXT OF THE COPYRIGHT AMENDMENT ACT 1984, AND RESPONSES TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS FROM WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE COMPUTER INDUSTRY. WE AIM TO HAVE THE ISSUE OUT BY THE END OF JULY.

THE MAIN AIM OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE, HOWEVER, WILL BE TO ENCOURAGE DEBATE ON THE MOST DESIRABLE FORM OF LONG-TERM PROTECTION FOR SOFTWARE IN AUSTRALIA - OR WHETHER ANY PROTECTION IS DESIRABLE.

THE **DEADLINE** FOR ALL COMMENTS, LETTERS TO THE EDITOR AND ARTICLES FOR THIS SPECIAL ISSUE IS **FRIDAY 20TH JULY**. SO START WRITING!

- JILL MATTHEWS, EDITOR