REQUESTED REVISION:

STANDARD: 802.3
CLAUSE NUMBER: Various
CLAUSE TITLE:
PROPOSED REVISION TEXT:

Revise IEEE Std 802.3 to properly describe, architect, and define jumbo frames and cut-through behaviour.

RATIONALE FOR REVISION:

"Jumbo Frames" have been the elephant in the room for at least a couple of decades now; they are not sanctioned by IEEE Std 802.3, but they exist "in the wild" in products from several manufacturers. Similarly, cut-through behaviour is supported by several manufacturers, but is not described or sanctioned in the standard.

The lack of an agreed 802.3 specification for these behaviours makes it increasingly difficult to specify new functionality in 802.1 Bridges; there is no standard specification, but we have to take account of these aspects of real-world networks anyway when we specify new Bridging functions.

It would be a service to the industry for 802.3 to finally accept reality - these behaviours exist, and having a standard specification for them would promote interoperability, which is, after all, a major raison d'etre for the whole of the 802 standards effort.

IMPACT ON EXISTING NETWORKS:
Unclear. These features would presumably be included as options.