



# FEDERAL POLICY: POSTAL SERVICES

**ONE NATION** proposes retaining the existing concept of community service obligations, structure and government ownership of Australia Post, with equality in employment, and sensible re-numeration for staff, management and directors.

## POSTAL SERVICES

- One Nation will retain Government ownership of Australia Post, as the current dividend stream (60% of after tax profits) is reliable.
- Equality in employment, no apartheid and no interference from GATS.
- Remuneration for board executives is excessive eg: Managing director \$1million in 1999-2000, this will be reduced to levels in keeping with performance, responsibility, and overall wage structures. Appointment only of directors who have an understanding of postal services.
- Retention of the existing two monopolies (letters less than 250 grams and inwards international mail.)
- Retention of concept of community service obligations as required under the A.P.C. Act.
- One Nation opposes any proposed legislation, by APS to bill E-mail users out of "alternative postage fees" Bill 602P will permit the Federal Government to charge a 5-cent surcharge on every E-mail. This is another tax by stealth.
- One Nation opposes deregulation and privatisation of Australia Post.

## BREIF: POSTAL SERVICES

The Australia Post organization was set up by the Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989 and the Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997; it consists of The Board. The board sets the corporation's objectives, strategies and policies. The Managing Director. The managing director, who is a member of the board, is responsible for the day-to-day management of the corporation. Executive Committee. This is the peak body of senior managers who advise the managing director on strategies and policies put to the board for its endorsement.

Group Managers. Group managers are responsible for state administrations. These are consistent with state government areas, with the exception of Victoria and Tasmania, which are combined into a single operating area, and South Australia and the Northern Territory, which are similarly combined. This structure was changed in 2000-2001, with a new Mail and Networks division assuming responsibility for national transport and delivery co-ordination and the appointment of commercial managers in NSW and Victoria.

National Corporate Accounts. Established in January, this new group is responsible for managing all major accounts, working closely with state-based general managers and sales teams.

#### Highlights of 1999-2000:

- Completing the \$510 million modernisation of the nation's mail delivery network in one of the most far-reaching change programs undertaken by any Australian service business.
- Achieving rises in profit, productivity and return on assets.
- Recording the highest mail volume growth in nine years.
- For eight years a 45. Cent standard letter rate was maintained by the GPO. At that time this rate was the fourth lowest in the Western world.
- Paying more than 170 million bills for 390 companies through Bill-pay.
- Piloting major new initiatives including business banking, electronic Bill pay and an Internet fulfilment service.

## **AUSTRALIA POST PRIVATISATION BY STEALTH**

23 March 2003: The first steps towards Privatisation of Australia Post were been taken with the introduction of a Bill in the Senate to deregulate postal services. Senator Len Harris warned that the Postal Services Legislation Amendment Bill would place Australia Post at risk if passed in its present form.

**“The measures in the legislation are designed to aid postal industry deregulation and introduce the Australian Communications Authority (ACA) into postal legislation.”**

“The Proposed measures add to the cost of providing Australia Post’s services without providing certainty as to the benefits to be gained.”

“Part of the uneasiness about this Bill stems from the government’s requirement for an independent review of Telstra’s Community Service Obligation by the ACA. This model is now suggested for Australia Post.”

**“The Australia Post privatisation agenda is being driven by the WTO’s General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). We know that in 2002, the EU was pushing a trade deal to liberalise mail services, throwing them open to overseas companies. Under GATS, mail services are on the bargaining table.”**

Edited and formatted

By

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