

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 98

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Written, 07/06/2017

Topic: Sale of other GPOs

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Australia Post's statement of 31 May 2017 also stated "There are no current plans for the sale of any other GPO."

1. Outline Australia Post's ownership of each of the GPO buildings in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and Darwin? Outline which are freeholds and which are leaseholds?
2. Does Australia Post own the building that the Melbourne GPO retail shop is currently located (1/250 Elizabeth Street)?
3. Does Australia Post own the building that the Perth GPO retail shop is currently located (1/378 Wellington Street)?
4. Detail any discussions and/or correspondence between any members of the Executive and Board (eg Executive to Executive or Executive to Board) in relation to plans for the sale of any GPO freeholds or leaseholds between 1 January 2016 and 1 June 2017. Provide a list of the GPOs discussed, who was involved in the discussion and any decisions made.
5. Is Australia Post currently considering sale of any of the GPOs freeholds or leaseholds in Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, Perth, Adelaide, Canberra and Darwin?
6. Is Australia Post currently considering relocating any of the Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide, Canberra and Darwin GPOs retail shops from their current sites?

Answer:

1. Australia Post's ownership of each of the GPO buildings is detailed below and is accurate to 15 June 2017:

Property	Ownership	Leases
Perth GPO	Freehold	Various commercial leases with expiries ranging from 2021 to 2032
Brisbane GPO*	Freehold	Various commercial leases with expiries ranging from 2018 to 2023
Melbourne GPO	Freehold	99 year lease of property commenced 2002 and expires 2101
Canberra GPO*	Freehold	Various commercial leases on a month to month basis
Darwin GPO*	Freehold	Various commercial leases on a month to month basis
Hobart GPO*	Freehold	Two commercial leases on a minor portion of the property space with expiries in 2021.
Adelaide GPO*	Freehold	99 year lease of property commenced 2006 and expires 2105
Sydney GPO*	Freehold	99 year lease of property commenced 1997 and expires 2096

* Denotes where a post office presence remains currently.

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2. No.
3. No.
4. The following matters relating to GPO properties were discussed and considered by the Australia Post Executive Committee and Board of Directors:
 - February 2016: Establishing a GPO Trust (Update Only)
 - May 2016: Update on Plans for Establishing a GPO Trust (Update Only)
 - June 2016: Update on Plans for Establishing a GPO Trust (Update Only)
 - October 2016: GPO Trust (Notification of Intent to abandon plans to establish a GPO Trust)
 - October 2016: Perth GPO (Update on Freehold / Leasehold Sale Considerations Only)
 - March 2017: Proposal for Sale of the Sydney GPO Freehold (Update Only)
 - May 2017: Sydney GPO Freehold Sale (Board Decision - Approved)
5. No.
6. Australia Post is not currently considering relocating any of the Brisbane, Hobart, Canberra or Darwin GPO retail shops from their current sites. The Adelaide GPO retail shop will soon be relocated to an alternative location within the same GPO complex.