



AUSTRALIA POST INQUIRY

My name is Paul Rowland and I am a semi-retired builder. I was a director of a construction company for 30 years in Sydney and I am now living, with my family, in North Haven, a small coastal village on the mid North Coast of NSW.

Whilst living in North Haven for the past six years, I have come to appreciate the services Australia Post provides myself, my family and the local community. Especially since my local ANZ bank in nearby Laurieton closed their doors.

Thank you for conducting this inquiry and the opportunity it has provided me to make this submission.

This inquiry is also an opportunity to try and restore some faith in the Government, in the eyes of the Australian people.

Our faith has been steadily eroded by a constant stream of scandals, short sighted and inept policy decisions, corruption and a total disregard of the needs of the Australian people.

The need for this inquiry has arisen due to the cowardly attack and treatment of Christine Holgate by the Australia Parliament.

Christine Holgate has been investigated and cleared by an independent inquiry set up Scott Morrison and funded by the Government.

Christine Holgate has been found not guilty of any wrongdoing regarding the gifting of the Cartier watches and still has not been reinstated to her rightful position of CEO at Australia Post.

The fact Christine Holgate has not been reinstated to her former position must now be transparently investigated and the truth of the matter revealed.

By all accounts, Christine Holgate has done an amazing job of turning around the fortunes of Australia Post as well as providing the people of Australia with improved services, especially in small towns in regional areas.

Christine Holgate's performance is in direct contrast to her predecessor, Ahmed Fahour, who seemed to be intent on running Australia Post into the ground and selling valuable bricks and mortar assets during his tenure – approximately half a billion dollars.

For Ahmed Fahour's incompetent performance, he was paid nearly three times more annually than Christine Holgate was paid and received an \$8 million bonus at the end of his contract as CEO of Australia Post.

Ahmed Fahour negligent and inept performance must be investigated as part of the Australia Post inquiry as well as Fahour's past and present roles and connections to the Boston Consulting Group.

Investigations need to be made regarding the relationships between the Boston Consulting Group, Scott Morrison, Ahmed Fahour and Lucio Di Bartolomeo and the secrecy surrounding the Boston Consulting Group report.

Also, the contents of report produced by the Boston Consulting Group needs to be fully investigated, as well as anyone with links to the above group of people, who may be aware of the contents of the report which are being suppressed from the Australian public.

It appears that the agenda behind the Boston Consulting Group report goes to the heart of the matter, which is to downgrade the value and viability of Australia Post in the eyes of the Australian public to facilitate an unobstructed asset sell off, of Australia Post, to a private buyer/consortium at a discounted price.

Christine Holgate's ability to resurrect and create a highly profitable Australia Post as well as her vision to create a public bank, under the umbrella of Australia Post, was an unexpected obstacle to the Government and their plan to sell Australia Post.

Scrutiny needs to be directed to Scott Morrison as well as "The Big Four Banks" to ascertain whether the discrediting and removal of Christine Holgate was in their interest, to ensure a public bank was not created within Australia Post and for the asset sale to proceed.

Moving forward, I believe there is an enormous public expectation that the whole sordid truth be exposed.

Christine Holgate must be reinstated immediately for the good of Australia Post and the Australian people.

If the Australia Post inquiry's terms of reference permit, the role and the benefits to the community of a national public banking system, incorporated in Australia Post, should be pursued.

This inquiry must only have one objective and that is to find the truth. Once the truth is revealed, the truth must be exposed to the public, and the public will be the judge.

Please do not let the Australian public down!!!

Truth and accountability have been obliterated in the political arena for decades. This inquiry is finally a chance to see integrity, justice and rule of law triumph over corruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to have my say via this submission and I trust that commonsense and truth will prevail in this critically important Australia Post inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Paul John Rowland