

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates February 2017
Communications Portfolio
Australia Post

Question No: 78

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Written, 10/03/2017

Topic: Postcode data

Senator Whish-Wilson, Peter asked:

1. What is the rationale for charging for access to postcode files?
2. Is there any sensitive data contained in postcodes files?
3. Did Australia Post assess charging for access to postcode files with the Australian Government Public Data Policy Statement, specifically that Australian Government entities will “make non-sensitive data open by default to contribute to greater innovation and productivity improvements across all sectors of the Australian economy”?
4. How much revenue does Australia Post raise from charging for access to postcode files?
5. Has Australia Post evaluated the potential benefit, including innovation and productivity improvements, to the entire economy of making access to postcode files free?
6. Are third parties restricted from providing free access to postcode files?
7. What is the copyright status of postcode files?
8. Who owns the intellectual property of postcode files?

Answer:

1. Australia Post gathers, collates and maintains a range of postcode data sets and charges a fee for access and use of some postcode data sets to cover the cost of keeping postcode data sets up to date and for the storage of the postcode data.
2. No.
3. Australia Post provides fee-free and “open by default” access to postcode data for Australian organisations and the Australian public through:
 - an Application Programming Interface: (<https://developers.auspost.com.au/>);
 - a downloadable PDF (https://postcode.auspost.com.au/free_display.html?id=1); and
 - a look up website (<http://auspost.com.au/postcode>) and through the Australia Post Website and corresponding App.In addition to this open and free provision of data, Australia Post offers a subscription-based service for a regularly updated dataset of postcode files.
4. The revenue raised from providing subscription services for postcode file data sets is:

FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17 (Year-to-Date)
\$ 88,538	\$ 151,651	\$ 178,619	\$ 134,255

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5. Australia Post provides postcode data sets to the Australian Government which are transformed into Geocoded National Address Files (G-NAF). The GNAF is a dataset which includes spatial data for addresses (properties), roads and localities and is also made available for all Australian organisations and the general public on a free and open by default basis (subject to appropriate licensing terms) on the Australian Government's open data website, data.gov.au.
6. Yes.
7. It is Australia Post's position that copyright vests in individual data files which comprise an entire postcode file.
8. Australia Post.