



Australian Citizens Party

ABN: 96 864 903 379

National Office: 595 Sydney Rd Coburg VIC 3058 | **Postal address:** PO Box 376 Coburg VIC 3058

Website: <http://citizensparty.org.au>

Friday, 30 April 2021

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

We write in protest at the totally unwarranted attack on our organisation by Senator Henderson during the hearing before the Committee in Canberra on 27 February.

We do not wish to distract from the purpose of the Committee and its hearing and request that the Committee treat this letter as a supplementary submission to our original submission to this Committee, which answers any questions raised as to the basis upon which this organisation has supported (and continues to support) Australia Post, its licensed post offices, and its CEO Christine Holgate throughout this whole affair, and publish both on its website and take these comments into consideration in its deliberations.

We would suggest that this attack by Senator Henderson, supported by Senator Kitching, warrants the publication of our Submission and this letter.

The attack on our organisation by Senator Henderson was made in circumstances where Senator Henderson would have been aware that she had the benefit of Parliamentary privilege in a very public forum and where the party she was attacking had no formal right of reply.

In the midst of a hearing dealing with serious issues, Senator Henderson thought fit to gratuitously introduce questions to a witness, Angela Cramp, which were totally irrelevant to the matters being considered by the Committee and in the course of so doing made a number of serious allegations concerning this organisation, representing the allegations as fact and knowing that they would be reported and repeated as if fact.

In the guise of questions to Angela Cramp, Senator Henderson made totally unwarranted, unfounded, unjustified and untrue allegations that this organisation was “*anti-semitic*” and “*racist*”.

To any thinking person who has taken the trouble to consider the policies and ideas which we represent and have been pursuing over the last 30 years, it would be obvious that the allegations made by Senator Henderson are the very antithesis of what we stand for and represent.



We are aware that many of our policy issues are apparently anathema to Senator Henderson, such as our championing of National Banking, Glass-Steagall separation of retail banking, opposition to privatisation, de-regulation and competition policies and, in general, our advocating of government for the general welfare and not for private or vested interests.

The issues raised in the actions taken against Christine Holgate and Australia Post are in total concordance with issues which we have pursued for the entire time of our existence, hence our reason for becoming involved. Australia Post is a national asset and should be retained in public ownership and its involvement in a publicly-owned post-office bank is a step towards the banking structure we promote.

We are disappointed that a Senator of the Australian Parliament would take up the Committee's limited hearing time in pursuing ad nauseam from her own agenda, matters which are not only irrelevant to the important issues being pursued by the Committee but which have been totally refuted and discredited over many years.

Whilst this is not the appropriate place or circumstance in which to raise or debate political ideologies, we would suggest that there is no other explanation for Senator Henderson's outburst other than an attempt to smear and discredit this organisation in its own right and as a supporter of Australia Post, its LPOs and Christine Holgate.

We endorse Senator Hanson's question asking "*what relevance does this have to do with the hearing with regard to the Citizens Electoral Council. Christine Holgate in her evidence gave that she has no association with the Citizens Electoral Council?*" and we are surprised under the circumstances that Senator Henderson was given the latitude she was.

We await the Committee's Report following the conclusion of its hearings and its consideration of the issues referred to it by the Senate and which extend well beyond Prime Minister Morrison's outburst in the Parliament and the claimed outrage at the award of watches to Australia Post executives. It must be remembered that that attack was initiated by Senator Kitching who, whilst now distancing herself from her initial position, has also taken the opportunity at the Committee's hearings to gratuitously attack this organisation because of our support of Australia Post, its LPO's and its very successful CEO Christine Holgate and our pursuit of a disclosure of the policy agenda revealed by the attacks on them.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Isherwood
National Secretary

Robert Barwick
Research Director

Robert Butler
Solicitor, Member Executive Committee

