



Australian Citizens Party

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Entire Australia Post board must go!

Australians must not tolerate the abuse of political process whereby a CEO of a government business enterprise can do a brilliant job that saves an essential national service and the people who provide it, be universally acknowledged for her brilliance, but be torn down by petty point-scoring politicians on a technicality and bullied out of her job. That is the clear picture that has emerged from the Australia Post inquiry; the only just outcome would be the full reinstatement of Christine Holgate as CEO, which all Australians should demand. Yet whatever happens to Christine Holgate, who has now escalated legal action against the government and Australia Post, it is equally clear from the inquiry, especially the latest hearing this week, that the nest of vipers occupying the Australia Post board must be cleared out, every one of them, for the sake of the ongoing viability of our national postal service.

Like Scottish hero William Wallace in *Braveheart*, who led the fight for freedom for the people of Scotland but was betrayed to the English by treacherous Scottish nobles who enjoyed lands and titles from the English king, Christine Holgate protected Australia Post's services for the people of Australia and saved the thousands of small business families who run licensed post offices, but was betrayed by the political appointees on the Board. They decided it was more important to back up Scott "Long Shanks" Morrison's unlawful, enraged instruction "she—can—go!" than fulfil their directorial duties to support the CEO whose brilliance they all acknowledge.

The final hearing of the Senate inquiry, on 3 May, featured the real powerbroker on the Australia Post board, Liberal Party fixer Tony Nutt, a former principal advisor to Prime Minister John Howard, federal director of the Liberal Party, and a member of the so-called Star Chamber that determines ministerial staff in the Morrison government. Tony Nutt knows the central truth of this saga, which is that Christine Holgate did not agree to stand aside from Australia Post while an inquiry was conducted into the Cartier watches, but that the Chairman, Lucio Di Bartolomeo, lied when he claimed she did agree. It was the lie that proved to Christine Holgate that the Chair intended to get rid of her on behalf of Scott Morrison, and was the biggest factor in the bullying that drove her to offer her resignation on 2 November.

The reason Tony Nutt knows the Chairman lied is because *after* Di Bartolomeo claimed to the Australia Post Board meeting at 5:50 PM that Christine Holgate had agreed on a phone call with him to stand aside, Nutt received two emails from Holgate only offering to take two week's sick leave, not stand aside. He also spoke to her at 7:34 PM for 20 minutes, but neither discussed her supposed agreement to stand aside. Nutt's testimony proves he knows the Chair is lying because he was always careful to say "*the Chair advised the board that she had agreed to stand aside*". But despite covering himself legally, Nutt avoided honestly responding to Senator Pauline Hanson's line of questioning to get him to acknowledge the Chair lied.

In a sickening display, the board members heaped praise on Christine Holgate and insisted if she hadn't resigned they would have wanted her back. Tony Nutt described her as "one of the most respected business leaders in Australia"; Chair Lucio Di Bartolomeo said she "was a very good chief executive" and he was "sad to see her go"; director Michael Ronaldson acknowledged she "drove" the 2018 banking deal, and revealed the board was "really excited" she achieved it (yet denies knowing of the watches awarded to celebrate the deal).

Their praise is true, but their tongues are forked, because when it mattered, they threw her under a bus, and are now complicit in the cover-up. Australians must demand justice: replace the entire board and reinstate Christine Holgate.

What you can do

Call National Party MPs and Senators: Stand up to Morrison; demand he reinstate Holgate!

It's time Australians demanded the National Party stand up and fix the Australia Post debacle. Political point-scoring or ideological agendas like privatisation should never be allowed to destroy a CEO like Christine Holgate who protected the essential postal and banking services that regional communities rely on, and the hard-working small business families who run the licensed post offices that provide those services. If that ever does happen, as in this case, it is up to honest politicians to put it right, and not just accept that "that's politics". Call all National Party MPs and Senators to tell them that, aside from Senator Bridget McKenzie, their inaction is unacceptable. The Liberals cannot govern

without them, so they should form a delegation to Scott Morrison to demand he fix the mess he created: order his ministers to replace the Liberal-stacked board and reinstate Christine Holgate as CEO.

Call *all* National Party MPs and Senators and demand they fight for Christine Holgate and the LPOs:

National MPs

Pat Conaghan	Cowper, NSW	02 6652 6233	Pat.Conaghan.MP@aph.gov.au
Mark Coulton	Parkes, NSW	02 6882 0999	Mark.Coulton.MP@aph.gov.au
Andrew Gee	Calare, NSW	02 6361 7138	Andrew.Gee.MP@aph.gov.au
David Gillespie	Lyne, NSW	02 6586 4462	David.Gillespie.MP@aph.gov.au
Kevin Hogan	Page, NSW	02 6621 4044	Kevin.Hogan.MP@aph.gov.au
Barnaby Joyce	New England, NSW	02 6761 3080	Barnaby.Joyce.MP@aph.gov.au
Michael McCormack	Riverina, NSW	02 6921 4600	Michael.McCormack.MP@aph.gov.au
George Christensen	Dawson, QLD	07 4944 0662	George.Christensen.MP@aph.gov.au
Michelle Landry	Capricornia, QLD	07 4922 6604	Michelle.Landry.MP@aph.gov.au
David Littleproud	Maranoa, QLD	07 4662 2715	David.Littleproud.MP@aph.gov.au
Llew O'Brien	Wide Bay, QLD	07 4121 2936	Llew.O'Brien.MP@aph.gov.au
Ken O'Dowd	Flynn, QLD	07 4972 5465	Ken.O'Dowd.MP@aph.gov.au
Keith Pitt	Hinkler, QLD	07 4152 0744	Keith.Pitt.MP@aph.gov.au
Darren Chester	Gippsland, VIC	03 5144 5744	Darren.Chester.MP@aph.gov.au
Damian Drum	Nicholls, VIC	03 5821 5371	Damian.Drum.MP@aph.gov.au
Anne Webster	Mallee, VIC	03 5021 5987	Anne.Webster.MP@aph.gov.au

National Senators

Perin Davey	NSW	02 9519 9310	senator.davey@aph.gov.au
Sam McMahon	NT	08 8948 3555	senator.mcmahon@aph.gov.au
Matthew Canavan	QLD	07 4927 2003	senator.canavan@aph.gov.au
Susan McDonald	QLD	07 4771 3066	senator.mcdonald@aph.gov.au
Bridget McKenzie	VIC	02 6024 2560	senator.mckenzie@aph.gov.au

Call Liberal Senator Sarah Henderson to tell her what you think of the way, on behalf of Scott Morrison, [she bullied and belittled the LPO Group](#) to undermine its support for Christine Holgate. Ph: (03) 5221 5900 Email: senator.henderson@aph.gov.au

[Click here to sign the new Change.org petition:](#)
[PM Morrison – apologise to Christine Holgate and reinstate her as CEO of Australia Post](#)