Date Introduced: 15 November 1978
House: House of Representatives
Presented by: Hon. A.A. Staley, M.P., Minister for Post and Telecommunications

Short Digest of Bill

Purpose

To enable the Cocos (Keeling) Islands to establish its own postal and philatelic services.

Background

The Postal Services Act 1975 states that one of the functions of the Australian Postal Commission is to operate postal services within Australia which, in the terms of the Act as presently drafted, includes the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The Government has embarked on a new policy for the Territory which involves the promotion of constructive development to bring it to a position where an act of self-determination can take place, and includes, as part of that policy, the economic advancement of the Territory. As a means of securing economic advancement, it has been decided that the Territory should be permitted to establish its own postal and philatelic services as a source of revenue, similar to those of Norfolk Island and Christmas Island.

The Bill excludes the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from the area of operations of the Postal Commission, thereby paving the way for an ordinance to allow the Territory to establish its own postal and philatelic services.

Provisions

Clause 3 amends the definition of "prescribed external Territory" to exclude the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This has the effect of excluding the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from the definition of "Australia" (which in a geographical sense includes the prescribed external Territories) in section 3. As the functions of the Postal Commission as set out in section 6 include the operation of postal services "within Australia", the amendment effectively removes the Cocos (Keeling) Islands from the area of the Postal Commission's operations.