



# **PROGRESS REPORT**

**FOR**

**AUSTRALIA POST**

**Prepared for Reporting Period**

**1 January 2003 – 31 December 2003**

AUSTRALIA POST has used its best endeavours to ensure that the information contained in this report is correct and accepts that this report may be subject to independent verification. We remain committed to abating greenhouse gas emissions and will continue to seek opportunities for further abatement. We shall continue to promote our Greenhouse Challenge commitment to suppliers and customers and encourage them to adopt similar measures.

# Australia Post 2003 Greenhouse Challenge Report

## Item 6. PUBLIC STATEMENT

### Company Operations

Australia Post commenced its commitment to the Greenhouse Challenge program in 1997/98 and has been actively reducing its greenhouse gas emissions since that time. By the end of 2003 Post has reduced its total greenhouse gas emissions by 205,842 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

While Post is continuing to make improvements to its operational capability so as to meet and exceed its community service obligations, the majority of these changes have revolved around the processing capabilities of our mail facilities. Post has consolidated a number of smaller mail processing facilities into a smaller number of major facilities. This has been supported by significant increases in mechanisation and technology innovation to make the processing of mail more efficient, meeting service standards and community expectations. This has had a mixed impact on Post's greenhouse gas emissions as while we have been able to close a number of smaller facilities the increase in technology and mechanisation has increased our consumption of energy. At the same time our increased activity in the fulfillment market has further increased our fuel and energy consumption.

During 2003 two new major parcel centres were opened at Ardeer in Melbourne and Chullora in Sydney and work has commenced on the development of new international gateway facilities in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane.

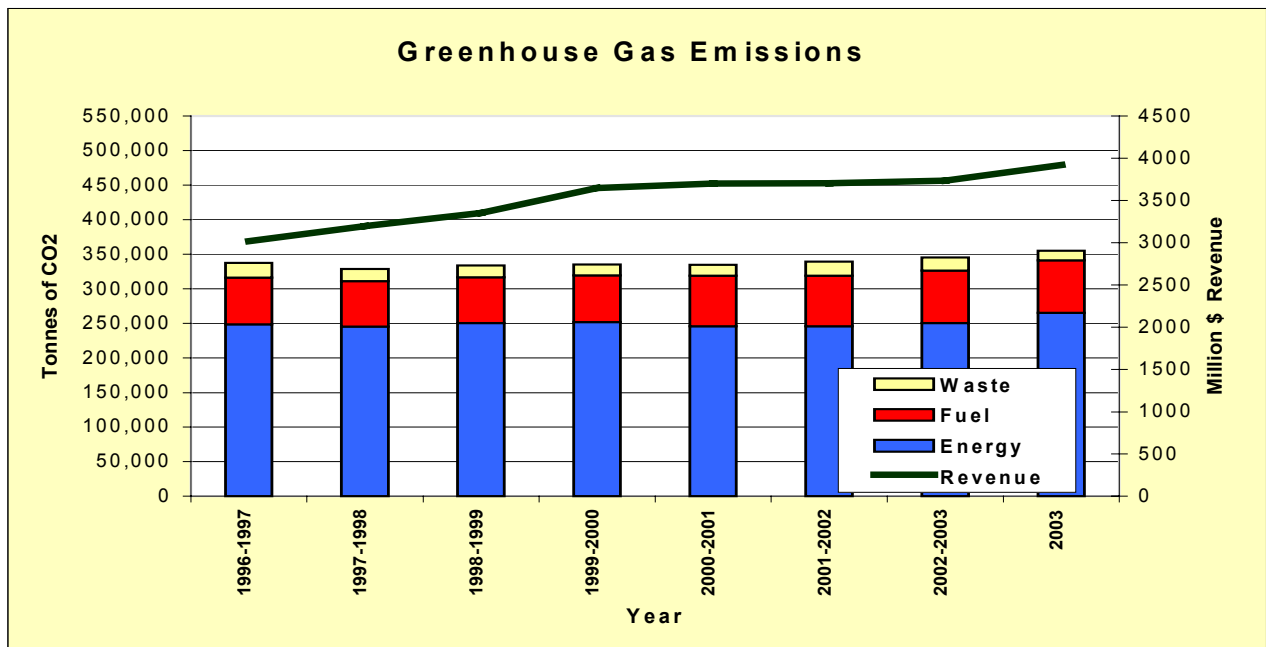
We are continuing to find new initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with two new Greenhouse Challenge actions added to the program this year with a number of possible inclusions currently under investigation. A major energy management program is currently under review, if implemented it would generate a reduction in energy consumption of around 18%.

### Emissions Update

Our total greenhouse gas emissions for 2003 were 355,133 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent. Post achieved a greenhouse gas emission reduction of some 17,095 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent from specific abatement actions (see below).

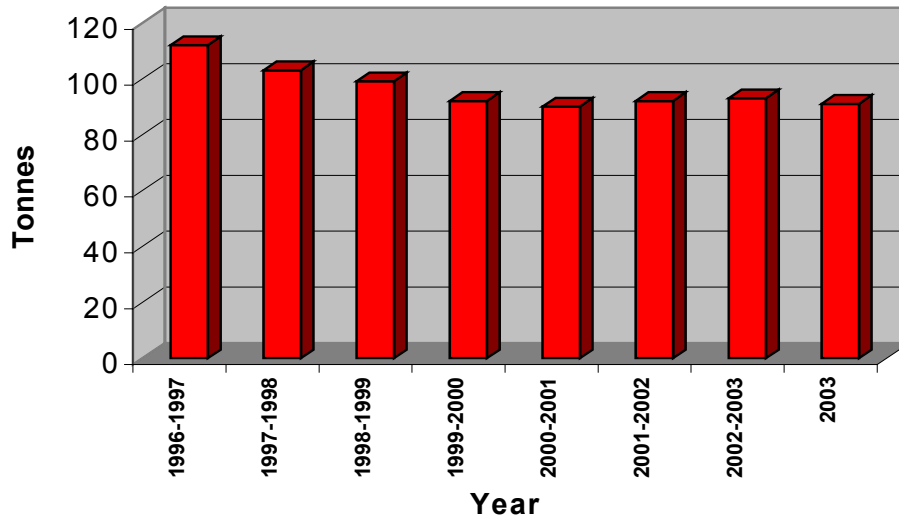
This brings our total savings for the listed actions, over the seven years of our participation in the Challenge program, to 81,429 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, a 3% reduction in total emissions over that period.

This following graph displays the emissions by energy, fuel and waste over the eight years of the program. While our emissions have increased over that period they have not increased in line with the increases in revenue



## Key Performance Indicator

### Tonnes of CO2 per Million \$ of Revenue



## Abatement Actions

Post has identified thirteen greenhouse gas emission reducing initiatives since the commencement of our participation in the Greenhouse Challenge program. The following six initiatives have been completed:-

- the Cleveland St. Chiller replacement;
- a package of energy saving initiatives;
- the introduction of B-Doubles to the fleet;
- introducing paper and cardboard recycling; and
- the conversion of our petrol based vehicles and trucks to diesel
- Photovoltaic Cells at Tewantin.

The following initiatives have been deferred indefinitely or abandoned:-

- New Mail Trays

Of the remaining six the Propane Vehicle initiative continued after it was going to be abandoned in 2002, the Fleet Configuration, Fuel Cell and a new Building Management System are ongoing and two new initiatives, the introduction of an Air Conditioning Management System and Enersave Lighting Control System, have been introduced. An update on each of the six initiatives is as follows:-

#### Propane Vehicle

The propane vehicle was due to be sold in 2003, however it has been relocated to Brisbane and will now operate in a more limited role saving approximately 5 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions.

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## Fleet Configuration

The Fleet Configuration Reduction Action promotes the more efficient use of our fleet ie smart routing, increases in volumes per trip, increased use of trailers and the upgrading of the fleet with more emission efficient vehicles.

No new B-Doubles were added to the fleet in this year's program. It is forecast that 4 new B-Doubles will be added to the fleet in 2004. Post will be continuing this improvement into the future with the use of B- doubles to be extended through the network. Post is also working with the National Road Transport Commission's Performance Based Standards project with the view to developing larger, more efficient vehicles like B-triples (prime mover with 3 trailers) to the fleet to obtain further economies in the transportation of mail product.

## Fuel Cell

We have continued to work with the CSIRO and the Queensland Government to establish a trial of a fuel cell in a new delivery centre scheduled for development in the current financial year. With the CSIRO's technical expertise and the support and shared funding of the Queensland Government, Post is excited with the prospects that fuel cell technology offers the Australian community as an alternative energy source. We have estimated a possible saving of approximately 55 tonnes of CO2 equivalent depending on the final size of the facility and the size of the fuel cell.

## Building Management System

A new building management system (BMS) and a number of energy initiatives have been installed at our largest mail facility in Sydney. The energy initiatives that have been implemented at the site include the installation of a small electric chiller to handle low load, the installation of variable speed drives for two large electric chillers and the installation of time clock controls on the Air Handling Units (AHU) the Dock area lighting during unoccupied times. The introduction of these initiatives facility has resulted in a 6% reduction in energy consumption with a greenhouse gas emission saving of 631 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

## Air Conditioning Management System

A Direct Digital Control (DDC) system was installed at the Dubbo Post Office in November 2002. The DDC system is a centralised computer system connected to all air-conditioning plant and provides centralised 365 day time clock control of all air -conditioning plant for controlling operation in unoccupied times. The DDC provides an outside air cycle which enables the building to be ventilated on milder days without the need to operate the air conditioning system's compressor for cooling. In addition, there was improved temperature control to minimise unnecessary simultaneous heating from duct heaters and cooling from the air conditioning system. The introduction of these initiatives facility has resulted in a 24% reduction in energy consumption with a greenhouse gas emission saving of 101 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

## Enersave Lighting Control System

The Enersave Lighting Energy Control System was installed during refurbishment onto all lighting on the ground floor sorting area of the St Leonards Delivery Centre. The Enersave lighting energy control system is a microprocessor-controlled system that slowly reduced the voltage supplied to fluorescent and other lighting types after start up has been achieved. The lower voltage has the effect of maintaining operation of the lights with negligible impact on lighting levels, while significantly reducing the energy consumption of the lights. Additionally, as the lights operate using less energy they also operate much cooler and as lighting significantly contributes to the buildings air conditioning load, the air conditioning energy usage is also significantly reduced. The introduction of these initiatives facility has resulted in a 26% reduction in energy consumption with a greenhouse gas emission saving of 577 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

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## **Other relevant management actions:**

Post has continued with initiatives begun during 2002/2003, including - 'Cards 4 Planet Ark' and 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' recycling programs. There are no direct greenhouse gas emissions savings to Post in any of these initiatives but significant greenhouse gas emissions savings for the environment.

### IT Disposal

Australia Post has continued to partner with [GreenPC](#) and [Technology for Schools](#) to refurbish and recycle old computers and donate them to schools and charities. As before what is not usable is sent to the recycling industry to be broken down into its key elements ie. heavy metals, plastics, etc.

### Cartridges 4 Planet Ark

Australia Post has become a partner in a world first initiative, 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark', which enables customers to drop off their used ink and toner cartridges for recycling.

Planet Ark, and leading cartridge manufacturers are supporting an Australian recycling company, Close The Loop who have developed new technology to recycle print cartridges - everything from the plastics, aluminum, steel, toner powder, and inks. Zero waste goes to landfill from the cartridges collected.

In 2003 this program collected 69,000 items or 27 tonnes of material and in the first 4 months of 2004 has already collected 59,000 items or 22 tonnes of material.

### Cards for Planet ark

Australia Post has joined with Planet Ark to participate in their 'Cards 4 Planet Ark' program. Post has made available one million specially printed, Reply Paid envelopes at Post Offices to enable customers to place their used greeting cards inside and post at any street posting box. In 2003 people from all over Australia were again able to participate in the 'Cards 4 Planet Ark' campaign to recycle Christmas cards through the mail. Post collected 80 tonnes of Christmas cards, enough recycled material to produce over 750,000 rolls of toilet paper while reducing land fill volumes by some 320 cubic metres. The Greenhouse gas saving equates to approximately 224 tonnes of carbon dioxide. As with the recycling of printer cartridges, the greenhouse gas savings from both programs while significant is not claimable by Post in its Greenhouse Challenge report (ie the savings are from the general community's emissions not Post's).

### GreenFleet

Post has continued to participate in the Greenfleet (the planting of trees to offset emissions) program with annual savings of 433 tonnes of CO2 equivalent and total savings to date of some 3031 tonnes of CO2 equivalent.