

Post and Telegraph Department

Agency

Basic information

Prior to the 1901 provided postal and telegraph services

ID

A2783

START DATE

10/12/1859 (exact)

END DATE

01/03/1901 (exact)

Detailed information

Alternative names

Electric Telegraph Branch

Electric Telegraph Department

Postal Department

Postmaster General's Branch

Postmaster General's Department

Postmaster General's Office

Description

ESTABLISHMENT:

Post Offices had been established in 15 towns by the time of separation from New South Wales on 10 December 1859. Postal services then became the responsibility of the Queensland Colonial Secretary. On 22 March 1860 the Colonial Treasurer was appointed Acting Postmaster - General.

On 22 November 1860, an Inspector of Telegraphs and Superintendent of Telegraphic Works was appointed and in 1861 telegraph stations were operating in 8 towns.

On 1 March 1866 a Postmaster - General was appointed with responsibility for three departments - Postmaster - General's, Electric Telegraph, and Meteorological Observer appointed c.1860.

As telegraph and post offices had for some time been united, for the sake of efficiency and economy the two departments were merged with the appointment of a Permanent Head on 2 October 1879

into the Post and Telegraph Department. The Postmaster - General retained responsibility for the Meteorological Observer's Office. From 1896 the Department assumed responsibility for administration of "The Electric Light and Power Act, 1896"

FUNCTIONS:

Mail services

Postal services

Telegraph services

Telephone services

Electricity generation and supply administration

Meteorological observation

ABOLITION:

The Post and Telegraph Department ceased to exist when the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for telegraph and postal services on 1 March 1901. The administration of electricity generation and supply in Queensland was transferred to the Home Secretary's Office and then to the Public Works Department, and responsibility for the Meteorological Observer's Office was transferred to the Chief Secretary's Office.

Citation

Queensland State Archives, Agency ID A2783

Legislation Abolishing

Post and Telegraph Act (Commonwealth) 1901

Legislation Administering

Post and Telegraph Act 1891

Electric Light and Power Act 1896

Information Sources

Queensland Blue Books 1859 - 1860, 1861

Queensland Government Gazette 1860, Vol. I, No. 16, p.114

Queensland Government Gazette 1860, Vol. I, No. 73, p. 463

Queensland Government Gazette 1866, Vol. 7, No. 23, pp. 221-222

Queensland Government Gazette 1879, Vol. XXV, No. 58, p. 681

Queensland Votes and Proceedings 1880, Vol. II, pp. 1063, 1068

Queensland Government Gazette 1896, Vol. LXVI, No. 33, p. 294

Queensland Government Gazette 1901, Vol. LXXV, No. 97, p. 1050

Queensland Government Gazette 1901, Vol. LXXV, No. 110, p. 1150

Queensland Government Gazette 1904, Vol LXXXII, No. 64, p. 1098