

Australia Post Scams

Australia Post is warning the community of widespread scam text messages telling customers there are problems delivering a package, or that a parcel won't be delivered "due to unverified shipping address."

The text messages use AusPost as the sender name (which means it appears in the same text thread as other legitimate AusPost communications) and asks you to click on a link.

The link leads to a fake website with the Australia Post logo, asking you to verify your address and provide a payment. By entering these details, the scammer can steal your personal and financial information.

Solar Savings

Technological advancements that might directly help some Northcliffians are improvements in grid-connected (Hybrid) and off-grid (stand-alone) solar power. Every year the price of panels and batteries go down; so much so that now you can buy an off-grid system for a small dwelling that uses 2 to 4 KWhs per day for less than \$7,400 (not including installation costs).

Off-grid systems avoid those pesky and all-to-frequent power outages that Northcliffians have to deal with.

Grid connected systems are much cheaper still because they don't have the batteries. Over time it's a real financial saving. A slight downer—renters and those who can't afford the initial capital outlay are by and large missing out on these benefits so far.

Detecting Scams by Reading Email Addresses

Last Month we talked about the importance of checking the address bar on the browser to confirm that websites are who they appear to be. In the same vein, if you are suspicious of an email you should check that the sender's email address is genuine before you open it. We regularly see emails that appear to be from a friend or are from companies that we are genuinely associated with, or email where the subject line appears to be a continuation of a conversation e.g. starting off with "Re:" or be a warning of some sort; that are just annoying and costly scams.

Here's what you can do. Before you open it, move your cursor over the sender's email tag or "nickname" and let it hover there. (See image below) Most email clients will reveal the true email address. If it does not come from who you are expecting then delete it. If you have opened the email and it appears legitimate but you are still suspicious, hover your cursor over the "from" field to check for a valid email address that is familiar to you. Make independent contact with the sender to check the email is from them.

If you are sick of the amount of spam and scam coming then you could check that you have spam filters turned on, or consider moving to a service with better spam filters. Cloud based email services like Gmail tend to have the best spam filters. However even the best spam filters are unable to block 100% of spam messages and will misclassify some legitimate emails as junk. See us at the CRC for help on reducing spam and email phishing.

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SENDER</u>	<u>YEAR</u>
Re: Payment bank swift attachment over due INV.	★ Nutchat, Kesinee	2019
Re: Electric wheelchair factory manufacturer	★ tufeituoqiang70	2019
tiddelypom@windyharbour.com.au EMAIL SHUTDOWN IN PR...	★ windyharbour.com.au	2019
Re: rehabilitation products manufacturer	★ you6019405085284	2019
Reservation For Room	Alex Goodman	2019-
Your account has been locked - Case ID 69297589132816678...	★ Latitude Financial	2019
tiddelypom@windyharbour.com.au EMAIL SHUTDOWN IN PR...	★ windyharbour.com.au	2019
Fwd: Re: Forwarder Details for goods pick up before shipment...	★ Nilnat... s...r2789955r99867tn@mailbox.com	2019
Re: Rehabilitation product supplier with safety function	★ you6019405085284	2019

Can you tell something is wrong with this sender address?

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 5pm • Thursday, Friday 10 am to 6pm