

Contracts for
transport of
mails.

22. The Commission may enter into any agreement or contract with the Minister on behalf of the Commonwealth for the transport of mails by air.

General
contractual
powers of
Commission.

23. Subject to this Act, the Commission may contract for the execution of any work or service authorized by this or any other Act to be executed by the Commission, in such manner, upon such terms, for such sums, and under such stipulations, conditions, and restrictions as the Commission thinks proper.

Commission to
be common
carrier.

24. For the purposes of this Act the Commission shall be deemed to be a common carrier of passengers and goods and (except as by this Act otherwise provided) shall be subject to the obligations and entitled to the privileges of common carriers of passengers and goods.

Alterations
made by
direction of
Minister.

25.—(1.) The Minister may, if he is satisfied that it is in the interests of the development of Australia so to do, direct the Commission to establish, alter or continue to maintain any interstate airline service or Territorial airline service specified by the Minister.

(2.) If, at the direction of the Minister, the Commission establishes, alters or continues to maintain an airline service and satisfies the Minister that the airline service so established, altered or continued to be maintained has been operated at a loss in any financial year and if, after due provision is made for reserves, a loss results in that financial year from the whole of the operations of the Commission, the Commission shall be entitled to be reimbursed by the Commonwealth to the extent of the first-mentioned loss or to the extent of the second-mentioned loss, whichever is the less.

Contracts by
the
Commission—
how made.

26.—(1.) Any contract which, if made between private persons, would by law be required to be in writing and under seal, may be made by the Commission in writing in its corporate name under its common seal, and may be varied or discharged in the same manner.

(2.) Any contract which, if made between private persons, would by law be required to be in writing and signed by the parties to be charged with the contract, may be made by the Commission in writing in its corporate name, and may be varied or discharged in the same manner.

(3.) Every contract made according to the provisions contained in this section and duly executed by the parties to the contract respectively shall be effectual in law and shall be binding upon the Commission and all other parties to the contract, their successors, heirs, executors and administrators.

Commission
may
compound for
breach of
contract.

27. The Commission may compound and agree with any person with whom any contract has been entered into by the Commission in pursuance of, or under the authority of, this Act, or against whom any action or suit is brought for any penalty contained in the