

NOTE PRINTING AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Note Printing Australia (NPA) has its origins in an organisation that was first established in 1913 to print notes for Australia and has printed banknotes for Australia on paper for 75 years until 1988 after which it introduced polymer banknote technology.

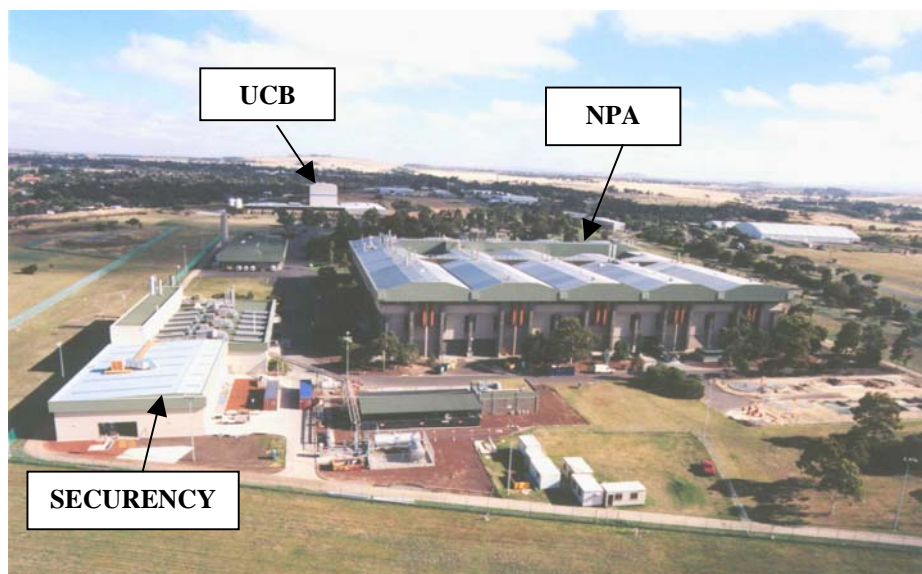
The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) introduced polymer banknotes to increase the security of Australia's paper currency against counterfeiting. This introduction has seen a landmark reduction in the level of counterfeiting, and appears to have virtually stopped the casual counterfeiter. The inclusion of security features unique to polymer such as clear windows, vignettes, shadow images, permanent embossing, Optically Variable Device (OVD) and a number of other overt or covert machine readable security features, make the polymer banknotes among the most counterfeit deterrent available on the market.

NPA prints all of Australia's currency notes on polymer substrate, which is produced by Securrency, a joint venture between the RBA and UCB Group, a Belgian based manufacturer of polypropylene films. Securrency is responsible for globalising this technology, and polymer has now been successfully implemented in over 20 countries over the last ten years with more than 6 billion polymer banknotes circulating worldwide.

The experience and knowledge gained from banknote production has allowed NPA to diversify into the security documents, identification and passport markets. During the last 10 years, NPA has assisted with the design and printing of the Australian passport. In 2002, the Board of Directors decided to extend its service offer to the industry by electing to invest in state-of-the-art finishing equipment thus providing the necessary components for NPA to produce finished passport booklets from concept through to completion on one site. The new Australian M Series passport launched on the 27 November is the result of years of development by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and NPA.

In addition to banknotes and passports, NPA has expertise in printing a range of high security documents such as intaglio postage stamps, travellers' cheques and treasury bonds. It was evident in the conceptualisation of the use of the Guardian® polymer banknote security features in other documents such as land title certificates, share certificates, tickets, identity cards etc. The Taiwanese land Title Certificate is viewed worldwide as a quantum leap in secure document technology.

NPA is an accredited organisation with ISO 9001 Quality Certification to ensure customers of continuing high quality products and services with an uncompromising commitment to customer service.



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