Coupon rationing in Australia during World War II:

An exercise in muddling and bungling

By

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A Thesis submitted for the degree of Master of Arts with Honours
of the University of New England.

I certify that the substance of this thesis has not already been submitted for any degree and is not being currently submitted for any other degree.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any help received in preparing this thesis, and all sources used, have been acknowledged in this thesis.
‘War and storms are best to read of, but peace and calms are better to endure.’
Jeremy Bentham


‘Rationing is more than a wartime necessity, it is a weapon of victory.’
R.V. Keane
Minister for Trade and Customs

Quoted in “Rationing in Australia June 1942 - December 1944”, Departmental publication, undated.
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Acknowledgements

I have to thank Laura Bennetts for motivating me to undertake this degree. My first supervisor, Associate Professor Carl Bridge, encouraged and assisted me before leaving for London University. Janis Wilton ably continued to support and inspire. The staff of the Australian Archives at Canberra were always most helpful, particularly reading room assistants, Tim Jagger and Deanna Zeller who were skilled at finding dusty files that had been long undisturbed. Australian War Memorial staff were always diligent. Staff of the Australian Archives in Melbourne spent endless time providing information, especially Esther Carey who uncovered thousands of Rationing Commission files that had lain undisturbed since World War II. Dixson Library workers handled requests for texts and photocopies with expedition. Dorothy Watts encouraged when I became discouraged, Betty White was always willing to discuss problem areas, and Bruce Hamon gave valuable advice. Without all this generous support and assistance the work may not have reached completion and I sincerely thank all who assisted me.
## Conversion tables

### Distance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 mile</td>
<td>= 1.6093 kilometres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 pint</td>
<td>= .5682 litres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 gallon</td>
<td>= 4.5460 litres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mass

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 ounce</td>
<td>= 28.3495 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 pound (16 ounces)</td>
<td>= .4535 kilograms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Power

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 horsepower</td>
<td>= .7457 kilowatts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Money

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£ = pound</td>
<td>= $2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s. = shilling</td>
<td>= 10 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Illustrations

Illustration

2:1  ‘An all-in war is impossible on rationed petrol’  After page 32

2:2  ‘Facts about the proposed petrol rationing’  Before page 33

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