To whom it may concern

I have run a small rural Post Office in a growing seaside resort for 4 years and would like to submit the following for your consideration:

1. The increase of the BPR to $1.00 is critical at present to maintain the viability of the majority of medium to small rural post offices. As our commission payments from Auspost are still linked to the BPR it is the only immediate way of securing the viability of the majority of rural post offices given that Auspost have been cutting our fair payments for many years to show a profit return to government. While there may be some rationalisation required in relation to very small Post Offices that are no longer viable, the majority of post offices provide critical community services to their local communities.

2. Most of my customers have provided feedback that $1.00 is not excessive and they would be happy to pay that amount. Personal letters seem to be the main area of decline and although businesses will be hit by the $1.00 increase initially, many of them have been steadily moving to electronic alternatives anyway and will continue to do so. A lot of small mail has been replaced by junk mail (unaddressed advertising) which has not been counted in the small mail tally. The junk mail at present fills the void that small letter decline has created and many of my colleagues who have been in postal services forover 20 years tell me that mail volumes including junk is ten times more than when they bought their post office. This seems to be a very popular option for businesses to get their name under people's noses (despite the trend towards electronic mediums) and it is an option that will not be impacted greatly by the BPR price rise.

3. The new delayed timetable of 2 days will not impact rural areas greatly anyway as most letters seem to take more than 2 days to get to their destination anyway based on feedback from my customers.

4. There are other efficiencies that Auspost needs to look at which I will list below but they all take time and research and none of them will provide the immediate relief for post offices that is required now.

a) the stock ordering system is inefficient and doubles up in many areas causing a waste of time and resources on every level.

b) the rural roadside delivery system that sends posties down 10 kilometres of dirt roads to one house instead of having mail boxes at the end of the road for all houses. Half of the roads at present already have this system so it just needs to be standardised. It would save millions of dollars in payments to contractors with very little convenience to the individual customers.

c) The exorbitant million dollar salaries of the CEO and his executives is completely out of line with Government department pay rates and needs to be urgently reviewed.

thank you for your consideration of my submission