Guide to making a submission on Australia Post's proposal to increase prices

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission will assess a draft proposal lodged by Australia Post to increase the price of its ordinary letter services, including stamps.

Australia Post is proposing to introduce a basic postage rate of \$1 for letters delivered at a new timetable, which allows up to an extra two business days for delivery to occur. Postage stamps for letters delivered at the current timetable cost 70 cents. Australia Post's proposal also includes price increases for the delivery of large letters.

Australia Post is not proposing to increase the price of concession stamps or stamps for seasonal greeting cards.

The ACCC's role is to assess Australia Post's proposed price increases, taking into account the level of the proposed increase, how efficient Australia Post is in managing its costs and whether the declines in mail volumes forecast by Australia Post are reasonable. In reaching its view the ACCC considers information provided by Australia Post, and views of industry stakeholders and consumers.

To assist the ACCC's consideration of the proposal, submissions are invited from interested parties.

The ACCC prefers that all submissions are publicly available. Submissions will be treated as public documents and will be posted on the ACCC's website unless prior arrangements are made with the ACCC to treat a submission, or portions of a submission, as confidential.

The ACCC will accept submissions by email or by post. It is preferred that submissions be made by email. If submissions are provided in PDF format, parties are asked, for accessibility reasons, to also provide a copy in Microsoft Word format.

The ACCC intends to release its preliminary view on Australia Post's proposal in November 2015 and a final decision in December 2015. Australia Post intends that the proposed prices would take effect from 4 January 2016.

The ACCC will soon release an Issues Paper providing further information on the proposal and review.

Submissions should be addressed to:

By email:

postalservices@accc.gov.au

By post:

Mr Robert Wright General Manager—Water and Wireline Markets Australian Competition and Consumer Commission GPO Box 520 MELBOURNE VIC 3001 The Australia Post pricing proposal is available on the ACCC's website at: <u>www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/postal-services</u>. The ACCC's Issues Paper, public submissions and the ACCC's preliminary view and final decision will also be made available at that link.