I wish to bring to the attention of the ACCC that I am a Licensee of a Licensed Post Office which is located in a rural township serving a community of mainly farming /self employed persons and retired home owners. We purchased the business in 2006 from our superannuation

monies having worked for 37 years with the NSW Police Service.

Australia Post has paid for my services over the years without any CPI increase which has resulted in my expenditure becoming higher than the income generated. My husband who is approaching 76 years of age helps run the business and without the free labour he provides we would be unable to keep the business afloat for we are already working long hours for a return of less than the minimum wage.

As a significant portion of my income received from Australia Post

(AP) is calculated by reference to the Basic Postage Rate for which Post is applying to increase from 70cents to $1.00 I respectfully seek your approval for this increase to occur as it would flow to an immediate increase to our income thus making our business viable.

The sustainability of my business impacts on my customers because the

necessary Community Service we give at our small Licensed Post Office is essential in a small town- this will also allow us to be paid for this service and assist us to stay open.

Our financial plight is apparently the norm and felt at other Licensed Post Office. My customers understand that the increase of the Basic Postage Rate has not kept pace with inflation and are therefore simpathetic with the proposed changes.