I wish to lodge a submission on the proposal to increase prices of postage by Australia post to take effect 4th January 2016.

We are a very remote area in Western Australia 177 kilometres from the nearest town.  The only businesses operating here are a pub and roadhouse and the local shire.  The Community Resource Centre, which is part of the shire contains our postal agency where we receive mail twice a week via a mail truck which comes out from Carnarvon to deliver the mail to the CRC as well as the pastoral stations within our shire.

With every mail delivery to the CRC we would receive approximately twelve parcels per delivery through Australia Post.  The reason for this volume is that living in such a remote area, everyone orders goods online and they are sent via the post.  This figure only reflects the parcels coming into the CRC at Gascoyne Junction.  On top of that figure would be all the parcels then being delivered via the mail truck to all of the outlying pastoral stations.

I am fully aware that with the technology these days in emails, Facebook, Twitter and such the volume of letters and greeting cards has dropped significantly, but please spare a thought for the remote communities and pastoralists that don’t have the privilege of being able to go to the shops and purchase goods they require, but instead have to conduct online shopping and pay for the goods to be sent via Australia Post.  I must point out here that we are actually supporting Australia Post by buying online.  If these charges go ahead and there is a large increase in the cost as proposed communities such as ours would therefore need to look into another means of having our goods shipped to us, such as courier transport.  Up until now online shopping has worked extremely well for remote communities with goods being sent via Australia Post, so why penalize communities like ours and risk the fate of Australia Post losing more business by increasing their charges to extreme levels.

I ask you to PLEASE consider Australia’s remote communities and disadvantaged citizens.

Regards

Margaret Rowe

Administration Manager



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