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18.4.2010.

FILE NO
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The Assessment Officer,  
ACCC.  
Regulated Services...The postal services.  
Dear Sir/Madam,

Newspapers today carried advertisements from the Commission seeking comment into proposed increases in postage prices.  
I went into the ACCC's website but had difficulty in downloading the "discussions paper" PDF.  
May I still have my say?

From the outset may I indicate my opposition to the base price of a postage stamp rising from 55 cents to 60 cents.  
I do so for the following reasons.

\*.....Australia Post is expected in June to embark on a new initiative...its own bank.....possibly to be known as "Bank Post."  
Like the four major banks I expect Bank Post will be widely expected, be highly successful and earn billions for its owners/ franchisees.  
Like all businesses costs and profits are evened out.  
It could quite easily absorb any losses incurred in keeping the basic stamp cost at 55 cents.

\*....Australia Post has thrown up the concept of having customers, particularly those in new subdivisions, collecting their mail from community mail boxes sited beside the primary entrance roads to the new areas.  
(There has already been a scream from the elderly, those who don't drive and families as to the disastrous impediment such a scheme would inflict on them. I also believe there would be protests from such groups as Telstra, Optus, insurance companies and service companies if their invoices were not paid on time because the elderly cleared their community mailbox just once per week.)

AUST. COMPETITION &  
CONSUMER COMMISSION  
CANBERRA  
20 APR 2010

Having a massed community mail box system would certainly save Australia Post millions of dollars through a reduction in postmen and the cost of running their cycles/vehicles.

Would Australia Post compensate those customers detrimentally affected by the community mail boxes by reducing the cost of a postage stamp to 45 cents?

\*....Australia Post complains that there has been a reduction of four per cent in mail items, mainly due to the internet.

So why doesn't Australia Post reduce its overheads to suit?

For example, if during the "boom days" of postage it needed four double'b trucks to transfer the mail overnight from Brisbane to Sydney and now the fourth truck goes south half empty, then why doesn't Australia Post go smaller operating just three double'b's and a single rigid truck.

A reduction in distillate usage and pollution would result.

If the slide in postage items continues Australia Post must match the slide by introducing smaller rigs.

It is known as "cutting the cloth to requirement."

Once again may I appeal to the Commission on behalf of millions of consumers, many like me, a retiree on a fixed income, to oppose the price hike and leave the 55 cents as is.

Yours truly,

John Graham Davis..

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Graham Davis". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a long, horizontal, slightly curved line that spans across the width of the signature.