

17/04/10 Dear Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, With relation to Australia Post's April 1 submission proposal to the ACCC to increase the Basic Postage Rate by 5 cents to 60 cents. As part of the public comment and submission process, I wish to state my concerns for this price increase of stamps and other postal services by Australia Post. I do not in my opinion see how this 5 cent increase to the basic postage rate be justifiable if Australia Post senior executive staff and board are paid very generous salaries a year, and earlier this year even gave themselves pay rises. Please refer to news article: <http://www.smh.com.au/business/post-office-chiefs-in-bonus-bonanza-as-staff-face-caps-20100216-o91j.html> I do not see how a stamp price rise is justified if Australia Post executives are not willing to take a pay cut to their generous salaries. In addition, Australia Post only recently lifted the basic postage rate to 55 cents in 2008. It seems ridiculous in my opinion if Australia Post believes that raising the price of stamps will increase mail volume or attract more customers to send mail. A price rise would see more consumers walk away from posting letters. As a semi-regular user of postal mail myself, I do not believe a stamp price rise is necessary at this time, in the best interests of the postal business, in my opinion. I look forward to your response. Cheers. Michael S.