

Townsville Public Forum 18 June 2002

Attendees:

- Tony Hilton, ACCC
 - Angie Austin, ACCC
 - Mr Billy Tait
 - John Stephens, Australia Post
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Mr Hilton opened proceedings by introducing the forum, and the reasons for which it was being held. A summary of Australia Post's proposed price increases was given. Comments from the floor were then invited.

A number of issues were raised at the public forum. These are listed below, in no particular order.

- Effect on consumers

Concern was expressed to the ACCC that community groups may be disadvantaged by an increase to the price of the base postage rate.

The ACCC was also told of concern that the proposed price increases might have a significant effect on regional centres as they rely more heavily on post as a means of communication with public offices (the suggestion being that most registries and government offices are based in major cities).

- Alternative price structures

Support was also indicated to the ACCC for an increase in the base postage rate if this would offset increases to larger communications.