

Proposed Increases To The Cost Of Postage Stamps

Dear Ms Bretta Merifield,

I saw the advertisement today in the SMH regarding 'have your say on proposed increases to the cost of postage stamps'. This is the first advertisement I have seen.

I will be interstate from tomorrow for the rest of the week, and hence cannot attend the 19 June forum.

My views are as follows: strongly oppose the increase in stamps. Reason why: the comparison is with telephones, and local calls now 20 cents or so, and if you ring at the cheaper time, can get in a lot of long distance calls for 45 cents. In addition, writing letters is a dying art form, but is one to be treasured. Look at biographies and the importance placed on people's correspondence for saying how they felt at the time. If you increase the price of general postage, it will accelerate the trend. Why not go the reverse: reduce general letter rates (not the business junk we all get) to encourage greater literature and reading and writing. Letters and post cards we now treasure, they are so rare. So, be part of the civilised, civil society: reduce the cost of postage stamps for such cultured pursuits. Even the form of this input to the inquiry is different, as it is by email. A letter would be better crafted: this is dashed off, to get it out of the way. A letter would give you a better submission: you are 'structured' into it.

So, in summary:

- ? strong opposition to rise in the cost of basic postage stamps;
- ? encourage people to send letters: encourages thought, reading and writing;
- ? letters bring a lot of pleasure to those who receive them;
- ? those who are housebound appreciate receiving letters;
- ? supporting letter writing, by cheaper postage, will encourage also the work of future historians;
- ? be part of a 'civil society' and value time and energy and intellectual pursuits.

Yours sincerely
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