



P.O. Box 527  
Nowra NSW 2541

20 June 2002

ACCC  
GPO Box 520J  
Melbourne Vic 3001

Attention: Mr Richard Home

Dear Sir

**Re: Proposed Postal Rate Increase**

As a member of the public I wish to make it known that in my opinion the proposed increase in the cost of stamps from 45 cents to 50 cents and the subsequent increased cost of posting large letters and parcels is unreasonable.

Although it is ten years since postage rates were last increased, any increase for regular users of the mail service would be burdensome, especially with regard to posting larger items in Australia or overseas. I frequently post parcels and I find the cost crippling, for example, today I posted a small book to England. The book cost \$14.95 and the postage \$13.00!!!! Charge rates are based on infrequent individual public use, it would seem to me. The corporate belief in Australia Post being that occasional excessive charges will encounter little public opposition.

If ten years later I am still finding postage expensive does it not mean that postal charges are still high in comparison with incomes and that the present charges therefore should be considered still adequate.

Any increase should be justified by an improved service. Just because big business relies more on electronic communication does not mean that the mail service should be allowed to languish. In a "developed" country, is it a sign of a quality facility that a Sunday mailbox pick up is lacking in most country towns? I say, "No". Australia Post should get back to the basic reason for its existence and think less of profit and corporate imagery with which executives seem so enamoured.

Yours sincerely

*Veronica Breen*

Veronica Breen

FILE No.
ENTITY
DMAN 202/35563