

Dear Sir,

### **Application by Australia Post for Increase in the Basic Postage Rate**

I own and operate a Licensed Post Office (LPO). I am contracted as an agent to Australia Post to provide postal services for the local community.

The last increase in the basic postage rate was in 2010. Since then, my business operating costs have continued to increase, while the postage rate has stayed the same. An increase to the basic postage rate will boost my post office income.

I support Australia Post's application for an increase in the basic postage rate for the following reasons:

- Customers understand that prices cannot be frozen indefinitely and that costs increase. Customers will be prepared to pay a realistic price for the basic domestic postage rate stamp.
- Letters at the basic postage rate will still go anywhere in Australia at the same price.
- Concession card holders will be exempt from the postage increase.
- It is vital that the basic postage rate is increased so that my income increases to keep pace with increasing costs.

It is imperative that an increase in the basic domestic postage rate is granted so that increases in LPO payments allow us to continue to successfully operate the post office for the benefit of the local community. I urge the ACCC to approve the Australia Post application.

Yours faithfully