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Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
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Attention: Director, Postal Policy – Communications Services and Consumer Division

AUSTRALIA POST MODERNISATION CONSULTATION SUBMISSION

My submission is this: De-corporatise Australia Post and reinstate it as a fully-fledged Federal Government Department.

The core postal services – letters – are being degraded over time because they are deemed unprofitable in comparison to other parts of the Australia Post activities.

However, I submit that Auspost should be regarded as a vital government service that should not be judged on its commercial profitability. Paper mail will continue to be the fallback medium for communication between industry, government, and citizens.

It is letters that are Australia Post's monopoly service; they are lone among 'companies' that serve our country's people in this regard. Yet it is the humble letter that risks falling foul into this government's firing line of cuts and false economies that look remarkably similar to the previous conservative administration, most infamously Malcolm Turnbull's Auspost reforms as Communications Minister.

I watched Minister Rowland on ABC Breakfast today (2nd March 2023), which is what motivated me into making this submission. The Minister made an important point: . Ms Rowland said that about 97% of letters posted are currently from government and business.

It's a stronger point against the case for winding back frequency of delivery and increasing the cost of sending letters, but my interpretation of the interview was that the Minister was using those statistics as a case for doing those things.

Raising the cost and reducing delivery days of letters will unduly harm two essential interest groups in our society: business and government.

I respectfully ask Minister Rowland to reconsider cutting the core of Australia Post - that is letters - for the sake of profit, and choose the people.

Yours sincerely

Daniel Sharp