

2 March 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to have my say on the future of Australia Post. Like many Australians, I have a strong attachment to Australia Post: for over forty years, I have enjoyed sending Christmas parcels, writing and responding to letters, sending birthday and Christmas cards and being served by Australia Post's excellent staff.

Australia Post provides an **essential** letter service, especially in regional areas, and I have become concerned by the dramatic increase in the cost of stamps and other postal charges since the 2010s.

I believe the following remarks are relevant to the reform of Australia Post:

1. The future should not just be framed as a "digital" future. For example, many citizens like to have bills in a physical form to keep track of them. Citizens also love to keep in touch with their families and friends through the post (especially at Xmas time), and this is an important element of social cohesion on a national scale.
2. If not managed carefully, future price increases may strongly discourage the sending of parcels and letters.
3. The issues surrounding letters and Australia Post have been discussed in great depth over several years. There is a need for the government to commission an independent historical study of Australia Post since corporatisation as part of this review process.

Australia Post belongs to all Australians.

Dr Lyndon Megarrity