

Submission to Postal Services Modernisation inquiry

Key points

- Reduced labour costs of up to 40%
- Improved flexibility in working days for posties
- Assured letter delivery every 2 days from Monday to Saturday
- Alternate 3-day delivery routes

Details

Letter delivery will always retain an important role in any society. Even with electronic delivery of most transactions, people will still want to send and receive birthday cards, Christmas cards, wedding invitations, hand-written love letters, legal documents, certificates, historical documents and drawings. These missives cannot be replaced electronically.

Crucially, many people do not have access to electronic communication and remain dependent on paper mail. Such people include the elderly, people with an intellectual disability, those in remote regions, the poor and the homeless.

To ensure that letters can still be delivered economically, Australia Post can adopt a **double three-day week**'s delivery schedule:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday for odd-numbered routes
- Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for even-numbered routes.

On a full-time-position basis, this would reduce most labour needs by 40%.

Posties could elect to work anywhere from 1 to 6 days a week, covering one, two or even more routes, depending on need and availability.

Although this would work with ordinary mail, it would not be satisfactory for Express Post next-day delivery. Therefore, Express Post letters would need to be handled by the Express Post parcels arm.

An increase in the cost of postage stamps could be justified by reference to the much higher costs in many other countries.

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