

Submission to the senate inquiry into the future of Australia Post's service delivery.

- 1) Australia Post and the Government are attempting to use the COVID-19 crisis as cover to introduce changes that would result in devastating job losses and cuts to community services.
- 2) Our members have been directed to return mail and parcels to delivery centres during the COVID-19 crises in a number of areas and have had normally worked extra hours either reduced or cut out completely thus contradicting public claims that reductions in service standards for mail were needed due in part to a lack of resources.
- 3) Our members during the crisis have done their communities proud in providing an essential service to all Australians who have been house bound during the COVID-19 outbreak. One example of this is the fact that attendance at work by Posties is at record highs and are members have really felt proud of their roles in the wider community.
- 4) Millions of Australians rely on the traditional mail service for their important correspondence. The reduced regular timetable would see the current 3-day metro to metro in the same state would blow out to 5 business days which would allow Australia Post to include weekends further delaying the mail. Australia Post also intend to remove the priority mail product further disenfranchising those Australians who rely on such for their mail deliveries in a timely manner.
- 5) Australia Post are moving to implement changes that could see up to a quarter of Jobs in delivery lost (approx. 2000) and we suspect they have a phase 2 planned which could result in the loss of another 2000 essential service jobs. The pace of which Australia Post are aiming to implement the changes are alarming in itself. Australia Post are indicating that they intend to hire vehicles to deliver parcels as they say the changes are only temporary but that they will be selling half of the motorbikes and electric push bike delivery fleet as they will no longer be required which suggests that they expect the changes to be permanent. Once changes are made to the network they will be very hard to undo.
- 6) All of these proposed changes regulation changes have had no consultation with the community or the wider Mail/Postal industry that employs over 100,000 Australians with approx. 50,000 of these Jobs in regional Australia.
- 7) Australia Post are in the process of importing more of the Swiss made Kyburz 3 wheeled electric delivery vehicle .We understand a locally produced version is available but to date Australia Post have not ordered any of the locally made version.
- 8) Australia Post claims that mail volumes have fallen by 50% is a selected manipulation of data at best and deceiving at worst..
- 9) By listing the changes as temporary the government's has circumvented the regulatory impact statement process (RIS) which is standard practice and requires community and wider industry consultation. In effect shutting them out.

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