

03 October 2006



Communication Workers' Union

Sharan Burrows
ACTU
Level 2, 393 Swanston St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

P&T Branch (Vic)
ABN 30 490 675 447

Dear Sharan

Joan Doyle
Branch Secretary

For the last several months, our union and regional community groups have been resisting a proposal by Australia Post (AP) to shift work from the five Victorian Country Mail Centres (Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, Gippsland (Morwell), and Seymour to Dandenong Letters Centre (DLC).

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Late last year, AP trialled the transporting of mail from Gippsland Mail Centre to Dandenong for sorting. This has now been extended to every day of the week with approximately 80% of the mail from the area being sorted at DLC, with a subsequent shedding of half of the staff.

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In June this year, AP started taking Friday's postings from each of the other Mail Centre catchments to DLC. This meant a further 10 jobs were lost.

We are concerned that AP will extend this to Monday to Thursday postings as well. AP are now streaming mail in the catchment areas of these Mail Centres into machineable and non-machineable mail, with the pilot in Seymour Mail Centre involving sending all machineable mail to DLC. (Only 10% of the mail is non-machineable).

There are 3 issues of concern:

- 1) Full time permanent jobs on award/EBA wages and conditions in the country need to be strongly defended.
- 2) The changes lead to major reduction to service. Mail that has had next day delivery now is only delivered within the 2 day advertised standard. There is an increase in delayed and Return to Sender mail as could be expected because of the replacement of dedicated local mail officers with automated sorting machines personal by casuals.
- 3) This is the third issue which is of concern. They are replacing these country jobs with 14 hour per week casuals at DLC who work 4 hours each on Wednesday and Thursday nights (without even a tea-break) and 6 hours on Friday nights. These jobs are a potential threat to conditions at DLC as they are on lesser conditions e.g. no tea breaks, no rotation, no Sunday work at double time, no teams skills loading, no RDOs, etc)

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joan Doyle'.

Joan Doyle, Victorian Branch Secretary for

CWU: POSTAL & TELECOMMUNICATIONS BRANCH (VICTORIA)



Communications Electrical
Electronic Energy
Information Postal
Plumbing and Allied
Services Union of Australia