

To The Regional Banking Taskforce,

Regional Australians, and indeed all Australians, need not only a government committed to ensure future regional growth and prosperity, but a government that will ensure all communities have their own asset of a physical public post office savings bank.

The big banks have reduced and reduced their services over time to the detriment of the public and their community. Now it is time for the government to build up the real wealth of the Australian people by protecting their means to do banking in real terms and in a real place.

The roll out of digital technology is not an excuse to continue to cut physical banking access for the Australian people. Communities thrive when and where there is an actual real bank. This builds employment which does not happen if peoples' banking needs are conducted online via computer or mobile phone. Technology is a useful tool but it will never replace the human need for being part of a community, a town, a region, a country. Regional Australia will grow with supporting the establishment of public post office banking, which will help to create viable regional communities again.

It is worth noting that cash is that tangible link to wealth creation. Australians and our government have voted to use cash and cash is real money.

Personally, I find it an affront for the government to suggest that the digitalised economy is Australia's future goal. Rather this type of economy is a global goal. The Australian economy must be strengthened with workers' built-up savings accounts or investments in government works, and the provision of more jobs, especially in industry and manufacturing. Public banks and the public post office savings banks are the way to go to make our economy strong and will, in turn, earn the government the gratitude of the nation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my response.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Alison Ryan

Mont Albert, Victoria.

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