

Regional Banking Taskforce

Dear Senators.

Having spent 16 years in the WA bush and dealing with the poor/non existent communications, online banking was a frustrating time consuming business. The nearest banks were a 45 kilometre round trip away. Shift work restricted or denied access. The only alternative was the local post office. When this closed permanently, my ability to conduct business was to drive to the nearest hill top, hope the wind was blowing the right way and that my laptop and internet hooked up and stayed online.

My storey is not unique. Having travelled across Australia in later years, the communication for much of our landmass is minimal.

My view is that as the Private Banks are unwilling to support most of Australia [geographically] then re establishing the Post Office Bank is a **Must**. The hub of all communities is a centre for commerce. When the Private Banks leave then the Local Post Office must be able to fill that vacuum, or the communities decline/fail. The Private Banks need competition at the very least, many Australians need Bank Access in reasonable distance. Electronic Banking does **Not** operate across much of this country. As the Private Banks have stated that they will go cash free within Five years, then an Australia Post Bank is **necessary and urgent**.

The infrastructure for the A P Savings Bank is already in place, it will be financially viable as Australians seek a safe place for their dollars. I urge the good Senators to support and promote urgently, the sensible alternative for the missing private banks, from so many communities. A re establishment of the Australia Post Savings Bank for the good of All Australians and the Country.

ps. Merry Christmas to you and your families, enjoy your break.

Eric J Scroop Ascot WA