

RESOLUTION

for a national

Post Office People's Bank

[NAME of Council, Chamber of Commerce, Union, Club, Political Party branch, Church, or other body]

a. notes that:

- Bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia;
- Since 1975 the number of bank branches in regional Australia has fallen by more than 60 per cent, and there are more than 1,500 communities across Australia with no bank branches at all;
- A large proportion of the population, including the elderly, disabled, small businesses, and local schools and charities, will always have a need for face-to-face financial services, despite advances in technology, and bank branch closures are exposing many of these customers to the danger of sophisticated online scams;
- For hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their community post office;
- Bank@Post is an essential service to all communities, but is vulnerable to commercial decision-making by the banks, which can choose to withdraw their participation, and charge excessive fees on transactions;
- With four major banks controlling 80 per cent of the financial system, Australian consumers suffer from a lack of real banking competition;

b. calls on the Commonwealth Parliament to establish a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank to establish a post office people's bank, fully guaranteed by the Commonwealth, as a dedicated postal savings bank, operating exclusively through Australia Post's corporate and licensed post offices, which will ensure basic banking services—including deposit-taking, business and personal lending, and access to cash—are available to all Australians, create real competition for the major banks, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

c. write to the Local State and Federal Members of Parliament, to inform them of our desire to support the establishment a Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank by Parliament.