

Postal bank

To whom it may concern

The time has come for Australian to widely implement a Postal Bank.

Postal banks are successful all over the world; the US Congress is considering a bill to re-establish postal banking through the US Postal Service; and, indeed, Australia's [Commonwealth Bank started as a postal bank](#).

There are 1,900 post offices in regional and rural Australia—820 more than current bank branches. A postal bank would guarantee banking services in perpetuity for all of those communities, irrespective of what the private banks do; however, in order to not lose their regional customers *en masse* to the postal bank, the private banks will have to lift their game and again compete on service, which would staunch the exodus of private bank branches. It's a win-win solution, in that it would also guarantee the viability of the post office network, and especially the 2,850 small business families who run licensed post offices (LPOs) that provide the majority of face-to-face postal services in Australia, but which were going bankrupt before Christine Holgate forced the banks to pay properly for LPOs serving the customers the banks have abandoned.

Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank (CPSB). The CPSB would:

- Guarantee banking services to all Australians;
- Guarantee income to Australia Post and LPOs, ensuring the long-term viability of postal services across Australia (so they never have to beg from the private banks again);
- Guarantee *all* deposits of CPSB customers;
- Support the cash payments system, so that cash is always available in the economy (whereas the private banks are aggressively trying to phase out cash to trap people in electronic transactions that have to go through banks);
- Lend to individuals, business and industries in the local communities the CPSB serves (which are increasingly starved of credit by the private banks); and
- Invest surplus deposits in a national development bank to invest in major infrastructure and industry development in regional Australia.
- Regards
- Leo Bunyan