

Australia Post 'Peoples Bank'

To the Government and Regional Banking Taskforce,

As a concerned individual living, working and supporting services in Victoria and Australia, we have noticed a big change in the way our Governments and Financial Institutions are being managed.

Our personal details, systems and operating systems have been sold offshore to international TECH giants and our data and documents are no longer safe.

I would support having an Australia Post Bank in operations, but do not support any forced digitalisation of this service. It can have that option but it must remain in the hands and for the benefit of the Australian community. We do not want overseas corporations having our financial data, having no security and being exposed to dangerous policies and practices.

During COVID we have seen a decline in banks in my local area of Geelong. For many people this has been a huge inconvenience and loss to their community. Retaining a Bank with a post office is a way to secure two of the main lifelines so many people need to live safely and be connected with.

I hope you remember that progress does not always change things for the better, it's only because you are sold an idea, usually where the end goal is more profits or less staff. As a Careers Counselor working in the TAFE sector for the past 12 years I have seen many changes in career pathways and jobs, many not for the better. We want our youth and people in general to have job opportunities to aspire to, for purpose and learning and to serve and contribute to society in a positive way for themselves. Technology needs far greater debate, evaluation to ensure it is being implemented to make life easier not just for automation and because we can. People want to stay engaged, and enjoy working together.

In many rural areas, with the loss of their banks it begins the loss of many other small businesses in the community, where instead having a bank and a post office serving all areas, allows options for many people to stay and operate.

I hope common sense is considered in making this decision. As we need to make Australia a safe place to prosper in once again.

Regards,
Joanne Black