

Friday 26 November 2021

Secretariat  
Regional Banking Taskforce  
Financial System Division  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

I have lived in Kuranda, Qld, 4881, since 2004, when I came to live here from from Sydney.

I have been with Bendigo Bank since before leaving Sydney, and when my (now deceased) partner and I decided to refinance our property out of Suncorp, we went to Bendigo Bank. This transfer was done in the Kuranda Branch of Bendigo Bank. Bendigo Bank was the only bank in Kuranda in 2004 and remained so until about 2 years ago when they closed the Kuranda Branch.

To go to the bank now, I must drive 40 minutes to Mareeba or half an hour to Smithfield to access either one of the Bendigo branches there.

Kuranda is a market town, it is famous for the markets here which are the lifeblood of this place. At 3pm when the markets are all closed for the day, the town is dead. Just about all business is done in the markets. The chemist, the 2 pubs, the supermarket, and the post office keep regular business hours, but the rest of the place is shut by 3pm.

The market stall holders must suffer without a bank here now. I know they do. We can use the post office. I have not as yet done this, although I believe I can deposit cash there and can probably withdraw too. The ATM's at both the service station and outside the supermarket do not accept my new Bendigo cards for some reason. If I urgently need some cash, I go to the supermarket, buy something and ask for cash out.

The closure of the Kuranda Bendigo has been a bad and a sad thing. It costs a lot in fuel to go the either of the two branches mentioned above.

A Postal Bank would be wonderful. Indeed, i believe it is ESSENTIAL. The Australian people don't seem to be winnng much these days. And we so deserve to win.

Sincerely,

E.H.