

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

RE : REGIONAL BANKING.

Having worked for the National Australia Bank 1966 to 1988 from Junior up to Bank Manager believe that I am in a position of having a fair and reasonable overview of where Australian banking has come from over the past fifty five years.

In 1966 one or more of the four major Australian banks were represented in most country towns and this representation providing very good banking services to their customers and also provided thousands of bank employee jobs.

Sadly for financial reasons the four major banks have steadily closed many country branches since 1966 and my observation is this has happened for the Banks share price rather than to provide adequate customer service and employment opportunities.

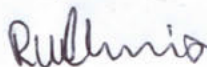
On the local scene since leaving the National Australia Bank in October of 1988 to commence in our successful family owned retail business in New Norfolk (with a population of 5,834 census 2016) we have seen Westpac, Anz, NAB and a local Credit Union all close with the obvious loss of banking services and local employment.

My concern now is if the local CBA should close then our business and other customers would have to travel to Hobart for normal banking and that is some 30 plus kilometres away and this can take from 30 to 40 minutes travel each way depending on traffic.

As the major Australian banks are these days not interested in providing banking services to country towns then we should create a government owned and guaranteed POSTAL SAVINGS BANK.

The abovementioned banking service has proved successful in other countries and could work in Australia therefore I request the Regional Banking Taskforce take a serious look at recommending this new bank.

Regards all,



Ray Williams, Williams Mitre 10, New Norfolk, Tasmania. [REDACTED]

7th December 2021