
Council Meeting Agenda

19 December 2022 at 5.00pm



Twilight Christmas Carnival at Murrurundi

General Manager's Unit

NOTICES OF MOTION

NM.12.1 ***SUPPORT THE COMMONWEALTH POSTAL SAVING BANK
BILL***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

The following notice of motion was received from Cr James Burns:

MOTION

That Council:

1. note that:
 - a. bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. for hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their community Post Office.
 - e. 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.

2. call on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 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, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.

3. write and make representations to the Hon Mr Barnaby Joyce MP Member for New England and call upon him to support the bill in the Federal Parliament called the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill when introduced by Mr Bob Katter MP.

Rationale:

As Councillors would be aware Aberdeen and Murrurundi have no face-to-face banking facilities and Merriwa is down to one bank in the Regional Australia Bank. This has disadvantaged many people and businesses and charity groups in our Shire. While Scone has four Banks all but one run very obscure and inconvenient hours and business. Life and all other things do not always fit into the timeslots allotted for these branches. To be clear, this is not a motion about the staff of those outlets, it is a motion about the safeguarding of the regions to be able to bank and receive trusted advice from a friendly face.

G.12.6

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AND CREATIVE ARTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Wayne Phelps - Acting Director Corporate & Community Services

AUTHOR: Amanda Catzikiris - Community Services Officer

DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Cr Allison McPhee declared a non-significant conflict for the reason that she is a staff member at a school of some nominees. Cr McPhee left the meeting and took no part in discussion or voting.

RESOLVED

That Council present the Upper Hunter Shire School Achievement and Creative Arts Excellence Awards on Australia Day to up to eight nominees, as determined by the four Shire High Schools, that meet the selection criteria in the guidelines.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr L Watts

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr McPhee returned to the meeting.

NOTICES OF MOTION

NM.12.1

SUPPORT THE COMMONWEALTH POSTAL SAVING BANK BILL

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Greg McDonald - General Manager

AUTHOR: Robyn Cox - Executive Assistant

RESOLVED

That Council:

1. note that:
 - a. bank branch and ATM closures are leaving many communities without access to financial services, especially in regional Australia.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. for hundreds of communities, their only access to cash and financial services is through Bank@Post at their community Post Office.
 - e. 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.
2. call on the Commonwealth Parliament to pass the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill 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, and will contribute to Australia's national economic development.
3. write and make representations to the Hon Mr Barnaby Joyce MP Member for New England and call upon him to support the bill in the Federal Parliament called the Commonwealth Postal Savings Bank Bill when introduced by Mr Bob Katter MP.

Moved: Cr J Burns

Seconded: Cr R Campbell

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY