Postal office agents deliver strong message to NBN Committee

Evidence provided to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Broadband Network (NBN) by the Postal Office Agents Association this week confirmed 464 post offices throughout Australia still do not have electronic point-of-sale technology and so are not NBN-ready.

"Of the 3780 post offices throughout Australia, 464 have no electronic facilities to scan bar codes, provide electronic banking, or track product on line. It's simply the old-school pen, paper and a date stamp," Committee Chair Rob Oakeshott said today.

"Only a small handful of these post offices want to remain on manual systems for their own reasons. The vast majority want electronic point-of-sale so as to grow their business, to engage in the NBN rollout, and to re-affirm the local post office as a community hub for many communities throughout regional and remote Australia.

"Australia Post is a Government Business Enterprise, and with major banks using this point-of-sale technology, and with recognition that the local post office plays an important community-building role, this is an issue the committee will explore further," Mr Oakeshott said.

For media comment: please contact the Chair's Office on 0429 787 320.

Further information about the committee's Six Monthly Review of the Rollout of the National Broadband Network is available: by contacting the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 2322 via email jcnbn@aph.gov.au or by visiting the committee's website at: www.aph.gov.au/jcnbn