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26 August 2002

The Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations
and Financial Service
Room SG.64
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir

**RE: INQUIRY INTO THE LEVEL OF BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES IN
RURAL, REGIONAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF AUSTRALIA**

I refer to your letter of 31 July 2002 calling for submissions to the above inquiry.

The City of Maitland is centrally located within the lower Hunter Region of NSW, two hours north of Sydney and approximately twenty-five minutes from Newcastle. The City has experienced significant growth in recent years and has a substantially urban population of 56,661 (Census 2001).

Loss of banking and financial services per se has not been an issue for the Maitland community as a whole. However, community concern has been expressed in response to the closure of suburban branch services, particularly at suburban centres in Rutherford and Thornton.

Maitland's growth will continue into the foreseeable future across all suburban fronts including Rutherford and Thornton, and is supporting planned and current redevelopment of suburban retail and commercial centres. Could would therefore like to see that the existing level of banking and financial services is sustained and where possible, enhanced whether through traditional or non-traditional means.

Should you wish to discuss these matter during the course of the inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 49349711.

Yours faithfully

**DAVID EVANS
GENERAL MANAGER**