



SHIRE of GREENOUGH

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OUR REF: 1220/1:HLE:KM
YOUR REF: F08.02.7
ENQUIRIES: Mr Henry Eaton

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

Attention: Kathleen Dermody (Dr)



Dear Madam

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

Council has received your letter of 31 July 2002 in regard to receiving comments from local governments in respect to the inquiry into the level of banking and financial services in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia.

A number of issues were raised by Council, which we believe should be addressed by the inquiry.

Our Council would request that Banking and Financial Institutions install more Automated Teller Machines (ATM's) in rural and regional Western Australia.

Installation of these ATM's should be installed, as a community service to many isolated communities and Financial Institutions should consider the regional, rural and social issues of where these ATM's are installed and not be based on the perceived profits that can be generated.

Another issue that was raised is the increasing level of fees that customers are paying for technology and convenience that banking and financial institutions are providing. It is particularly hard to understand this when major institutions are downsizing staffing levels across Australia while making very healthy profits and providing attractive dividends to their shareholders.

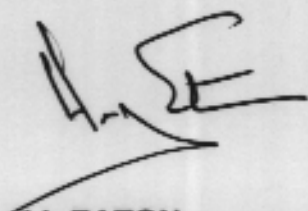
One would expect that with an increase in electronic transactions, use of credit cards and a lesser need for cash there could be or should be a reduction in fees as today's account management is controlled more by the customer than by the bank and its employees.

Geraldton offers a very strong and competitive banking service to the regional communities and we therefore do not have any particular concerns with the closing down of banks in the immediate future.

We would appreciate that our above two comments none the less would be considered by the Joint Parliamentary Committee in respect to the inquiry that is before you.

The above reference should be quoted regarding any queries or further correspondence relating to this matter.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H L Eaton', written in a cursive style.

H L EATON
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

29 August 2002