



Monday 5 September 2022

Commonwealth Bank leaving Smithton

Circular Head Council has been advised by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) that its branch and ATMs in Smithton will be closing in November.

This will be the 5th CBA branch closure on the north west coast of Tasmania in recent times with the closure of branches in Somerset, Penguin, Queenstown and Sheffield.

CBA's justification for the closure is a reduction in demand for over-the-counter banking services and the local community increasingly choosing alternatives to cash and cheque transactions.

The nearest remaining CBA branches to Circular Head are in Wynyard and Burnie. Australia Post outlets also provide some CBA banking services.

Circular Head Mayor Daryl Quilliam said *"It's very disappointing and will impact many in our local community, particularly people who haven't transitioned to the online banking world and anyone wanting to withdraw cash from a high street ATM. Local businesses will also need to find other ways to do their regular cash deposits."*

It's another unpleasant kick in the guts for a rural community from the big end of town, especially for those customers who've stuck with the CBA for many years.

It's all very well for the CBA to say there are branches in Wynyard and Burnie but that's a big trip from Circular Head and the west coast. We still have ANZ and Bendigo Bank branches in Smithton, as well as Rabobank, so I'd guess that business will increase for them and queues at Australia Post will get longer." Said Mayor Quilliam.

The closure date is Friday 25 November 2022.

Authorised for general media distribution by Daryl Quilliam, Mayor, Circular Head Council

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