



Thursday 11 November 2022

## Council responds to ANZ branch closure

Circular Head Council has been advised by ANZ Bank that its branch and ATM in Smithton will be closing in April.

The closure of the branch comes just months after the announcement that the Commonwealth Bank of Australia will be closing the doors of its branch in Smithton at the end of November.

ANZ has advised council that 80 per cent of their customers prefer to use online, mobile and telephone banking services, while only 8 per cent preferred to bank in town.

The closure will leave Bendigo Bank and Rabobank the only operating bank branches in Circular Head.

The nearest available ANZ bank branch is now in Burnie.

Circular Head Mayor Gerard Blizzard was disappointed by the closure.

“It’s very disappointing to see yet another bank close its doors in Circular Head,” he said.

“Our community needs access to face to face banking services and both major banks shutting up shop could have a major impact on local businesses and locals who aren’t comfortable using online banking services.

“The lack of branches in the area is a let down to the loyal customers in the region and with rising fuel costs it will likely contribute to the cost of living crisis if Circular Head residents are forced to travel.

“I also fear for young people trying to get into the housing market. You can’t just pop into a branch and speak to a mortgage broker anymore.”

Limited banking services are available at Australia Post.

The Smithton branch will officially close its doors on April 19, 2023.

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***Authorised for general media distribution by Gerard Blizzard, Mayor, Circular Head Council***

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