

**From The Administrator**

**Regarding: Westpac Bank Closure and Community Meeting**

Dear All

As you are likely aware, Westpac has announced the closure of its Coober Pedy branch, effective 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2023. The Council is aware that this will cause significant disruption to many citizens and businesses.

In an effort to understand the situation better and identify appropriate plans to put in place, Council convened a meeting with representatives from Australia Post, Coober Pedy Miners Association, Coober Pedy Retail Business and Tourism Association, Umoona Community Council and Coober Pedy Together.

In this meeting, I also briefed the attendees of work I have been doing to see whether a Community Bank or sub-branch was feasible to be implemented in Coober Pedy, as well as informed the meeting that Council had passed a motion in support of a government-owned Public Post Office Bank, as being advocated by the Australian Citizens Party ( see: <https://citizensparty.org.au/campaigns/public-post-office-bank> ).

As a result of the meeting, the following actions were agreed:

- Australia Post is ready to provide some banking services for not only Westpac customers, but customers of approximately 80 banks. The services are lesser than those currently provided by Westpac – for example, businesses can withdraw cash up to a maximum of \$7,000 per day and citizens will generally have to use a bank card for transactions. Because Australia Post's services are likely the only short term solution to the needs of many, it is imperative for businesses and citizens to put plans in place to utilise Australia Post's services well before 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- Council will continue to explore other avenues, such as a Community Bank or sub-branch, but these are, at best, long term and may not be successful.
- Council will host a Community Meeting on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November from 5:30-7pm at The Italian Club or by Zoom link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82773357683>**, where I will brief the community about the options I have been looking at, Australia Post will brief the community on the services it has available and all will be invited to share their views and discuss potential solutions. We invited Westpac to attend, but the invitation was declined. The media will be invited.

I invite you to attend the Community Meeting and will keep you up to date on developments.

Regards



**Tim Jackson**  
Administrator