



26 April 2016

Guy Barnett, Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business

ANZ decision on Local Link services disappointing

It is extremely disappointing that ANZ has decided to close their Local Link banking services in Bicheno, Bridport and Cygnet this week.

There has been a complete lack of meaningful consultation with the small businesses directly and adversely affected by the closure. This is despite an agreement by ANZ to suspend closures of their Local Link services in Tasmania to enable adequate consultation with both the community and affected businesses and also ANZ advice to me that these small businesses have provided "excellent services".

The community feeling surrounding the closures is that of exasperation and dismay. The small businesses concerned say that ANZ is more concerned with ticking boxes rather than undertaking any meaningful consultation.

As the ANZ begin their process of closing these services, I will continue to work with the small businesses and communities affected. I have already had discussions regarding other avenues for adequate banking services in these and other regional communities.

ANZ have now provided written responses to questions they received at the Bicheno community meeting on Friday 15 April, and responded to the 20 questions put to the bank at the White Sands community meeting over a month ago.

I also raised the issue of Local Link closures in parliament to update members on the current situation.

Contact: James Billing

Phone: 0438 399 989