



**SENATOR THE HON MITCH FIFIELD**

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS  
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS  
MANAGER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN THE SENATE

Mrs Lucy Wicks MP  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Petitions  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

**House of Representatives Petition PN0077 – Closure of Australia Post Office at Everton Park, Queensland**

Dear Mrs Wicks

Thank you for your letter of 4 September 2017 seeking my response to petition PN0077 presented in the House of Representatives, regarding the closure of Australia Post's Post Office at Everton Park, Queensland.

Australia Post is an independent Government Business Enterprise, both legally and financially separate from the Australian Government. Under the *Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989*, Australia Post is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation, including all decisions relating to its operational network. Australia Post is legally required, as far as practicable, to perform its functions in a sound commercial manner.

The Government does, however, require Australia Post to maintain a network of at least 4,000 retail outlets across Australia, including 2,500 in rural and remote areas. This means that Australia Post operates one of the largest retail networks in this country.

Decisions on specific post offices are taken by Australia Post and closures of postal retail outlets do happen from time to time. Whenever there is a potential closure, Australia Post takes into consideration the community's access to postal services.

Australia Post advises me that the premises occupied by the Post Office in the Everton Plaza Shopping Centre were to be demolished as part of the redevelopment of the Plaza, and it was unable to secure a suitable tenancy within an appropriate timeframe elsewhere within the Plaza. As a result, and considering that there are nine other post offices within a five kilometre radius of the Plaza, Australia Post decided to close the Everton Park Post Office and amalgamate services with the Brookside Centre Post Office, about 1.4 kilometres away. I am informed that there are two street posting boxes, including for Express Post, located outside the Plaza.

I understand that on 20 June 2017, Everton Park Post Office customers were notified of changes to postal services and were guided to nearby post offices that provide a full range of postal services.

While there are nine other post offices within a five kilometre radius, Australia Post is keen to ensure that the Everton Park community has ongoing access to postal services.

Australia Post is currently in discussion with a business in the Everton Plaza to provide an agency service where the community can purchase stamps and a range of pre-paid envelopes and satchels. I have asked Australia Post to keep me updated on progress in this matter.

Thank you for bringing the petition to my attention.

Yours sincerely



MITCH FIFIELD

20/11/17