

**Subject:** RE : Brooklyn Post Office - Urgent Assistance

**From:** President at Brooklyn Community Association <president@brooklyncommunity.org.au>

**Date:** 29/03/2023, 12:43 pm

**To:** Julian Leeser <julian.leeser.mp@aph.gov.au>

**CC:** anna.coote@aph.gov.au

Dear Julian

On behalf of the Brooklyn Community Association and the wider Hawkesbury river community, we are seeking your urgent assistance to keep our post office service alive.

Last Friday, 24th March the current Post Office Licence Holder sent a letter to all Post office box holders that the Post Office would close from this Friday 31 March 2023.

The obligatory three months notice was not provided. We are seeking transitional arrangements to be put in place so that we do not lose our Licence.

Australia Post has placed the issue under the responsibility of the area manager, Giovanni Gabrillo who has not yet returned a call to the Association. We understand that the Licence holder did not give the required 3 months notice of closure which would enable a proper transition. The Licence is to be relinquished on Friday and the BCA was informed that after the Licence relinquished Australia Post removes its computer equipment, safes and other electronic devices. Once relinquished, the BCA understands that a new Licence will not be re-issued – a blunt instrument that does not take into account the circumstances.

Australia Post representative Bill Cowan who manages the post box transfers advised that they will do everything to maintain services and that removal of a Licence is the least preferred option. I asked what the options were and whether a transitional arrangement could be put in place (given we were denied 3 months) until arrangements could be made. Other options were not available to be discussed.

A transitional arrangement, transferring the licence at least for its remaining term, would be a feasible option if Australia Post were open to dialogue.

A couple of businesses in Brooklyn have expressed serious interest in taking over the Licence and this would provide a time window for the community.

As you will know many communities around the lower Hawkesbury rely on this service for post office boxes, financial transactions (especially for the elderly) and general post services. Many residents are elderly and travelling to Berowra of Gosford is not a viable option.

Part 3 of the [Postal Services Modernisation Discussion Paper of March 2023](#), on page 22 discusses Accessibility of Services and notes:

*At least 90% of residences in a metropolitan area are located within 2.5kms of a retail outlet.*

*At least 85% of residences in non metropolitan area are within 7.5kms of a retail outlet.*

It is clear that for Brooklyn and river communities a distance of between and 18 and 40 kms (

excluding boat travel or train time frames ) is simply not tenable or acceptable. It will disenfranchise many residents in our broader communities. This is not a guarantee of delivery of an essential service.

The Brooklyn Post Office will in 5 years be celebrating its heritage of 140 years of service to the Hawkesbury River communities of Brooklyn, Dangar Island, Mooney Mooney, Cogra Bay, Bar Point, Cheero Pt, and Milsons Passage since it was first established, following an earlier postal service to the communities. In Brooklyn the first Brooklyn Post Office was named on 16 June 1888 in a building near the new railway in town. The original brick building at 13 Bridge Street was constructed in the first decade of 1900's. When the building was sold by Australia Post, the licence was taken up in a new residence at 3 Bridge Street where it has lasted some 30 years.

This may be short notice but we were given almost no notice, and we certainly hope you might be able to do something for our community to maintain this essential service and enable us to celebrate its continuing history together.

Yours sincerely  
Miriam Moloney  
Co – President  
Brooklyn Community Association  
Mob: 0414464375