

Dear Senator

Thank you for your email on this important issue.

**Regional branch closure announcements – agreement to postpone**

ANZ will postpone announcing any further closures of regional branches until the conclusion of the inquiry in December this year.

We agree with you that this is important to allow the Committee to complete its work.

We also have 14 regional branches whose closure processes were announced in 2022 and are now almost complete.

In response to your request, we reviewed whether we could pause these processes.

On balance, we believe doing this would be more disruptive to our customers and staff than completing them as planned.

Additionally, we will keep the Committee informed of any closures of regional branches that may occur for exceptional circumstances (e.g. staff illness).

**Regional communities – ongoing support**

ANZ remains committed to supporting regional communities.

The bank's credit risk exposure to 'agriculture, forestry, fishing and mining' increased from 2021 to 2022, rising from \$32,885 million to \$36,120 million (see page 181 of our [2022 Annual Report](#)).

We have also recently published [Greener Pastures 2](#), which sets out some views on the opportunities for agriculture in Australia.

We look forward to engaging constructively with the Committee on its inquiry.

Please say if you have any further questions.

Kind regards