

Deputy Premier
Attorney-General
Minister for Justice, Corrections and Rehabilitation
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs

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15 JUN 2026

Ms Ella Haddad
Parliament House, Hobart TAS 7000

By email: C\-\ haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms ~~Haddad~~ *Ella*,

In the House of Assembly, you asked the following question:

My question comes from my constituent from West Hobart, Lachlan. Minister, the West Hobart Licenced Post Office on the corner of Hill Street and Patrick Street recently had its Australia Post licence suspended. This has caused significant distress for local residents, who now cannot access postal services and importantly, banking services which are also provided through the LPO licence. These services were also available during the extended opening hours of the business which had made the outlet especially valuable to the community. As a local member for Clark, I have asked Australia Post to put in interim measures such as 24/7 parcel lockers while a long-term solution is found, and I know other elected representatives have also been raising this issue as well. Minister, what are you doing as Minister for Small Business to advocate for the West Hobart community to ensure these essential services are not lost?

As Minister for Small Business, I recognise the concern this has caused for residents in West Hobart, particularly where postal and banking services were being accessed through extended hours at the local licensed post office.

I have written to the relevant Commonwealth Ministers in relation to this matter and the Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business, Mr Marcus Vermey MP, has engaged directly with Australia Post.

Based on advice provided to me, the West Hobart post office closed unexpectedly from 1 April 2026 after Australia Post was unable to resolve "a range of significant concerns" with the licensee. Licensed post offices operate as independent local businesses under agreements with Australia.

Australia Post is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity, wholly owned by the Australian Government and represented by the Commonwealth Shareholder Ministers: the Minister for Finance, Senator Katy Gallagher, and the Minister for Communications, the Hon Anika Wells MP. That means the Tasmanian Government does not control Australia Post's licensing decisions.

The Tasmanian Government has engaged directly with Australia Post in relation to this matter. Australia Post advised that postal services remain available at nearby outlets, including Hobart North Post Shop and the Hobart GPO Post Shop, both less than two kilometres away. I also understand that PO Box holders affected by the closure can open new boxes at other post offices and receive free 12-month mail redirection.

Given Australia Post's Commonwealth ownership, the most direct pathway is through the Commonwealth Government. I would encourage local residents, to continue raising the matter directly with Australia Post and with the relevant Commonwealth Ministers.

Thank you for your question and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Barnett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Small Business, Trade and Consumer Affairs