



08 March 2019

AusPost

Attn: Pauline Davis

Dear Pauline,

RE: Process and consideration of Mount Molloy Postal Services

I write on behalf of the JAMARR Executive Committee. JAMARR is a non-political association of residents and ratepayers in the Mount Molloy-Julatten district. We have been incorporated for nearly 20 years and undertake a number of community activities at the direction of our members. JAMARR is non-partisan and strives to provide the community with tools and processes to nurture a vibrant and inclusive future in this remarkable region.

Thank you for the time yesterday to discuss the temporary arrangements that AusPost have taken with respect to the Mount Molloy postal service.

As discussed, we are aware that AusPost needed to make a pragmatic decision under confidential conditions in order to terminate the former agent's license. We also appreciate that AusPost have gone out of their way to maintain local services in Mount Molloy when an easier alternative would have been to shift the business to Mareeba.

As we also discussed, the community is eager to explore any options to re-establish services at the much-loved, existing, and available location at 14 Main Street. To this end, may we request:

1. AusPost undertake to inform the community that there will be a process of consideration, ie that the current CPA is a temporary assignment and that AusPost will call for alternative proposals for service provision.
2. This process needs to be undertaken with some urgency in order to provide the current CPA and the TopShop property developer with certainty for their business plans, and to re-stabilise the community's expectation for safe, secure postal services.
3. This process needs to also be fair and reasonable for alternative proponents. The process needs to be run over at least 3 weeks to allow time for preparation of credible responses by potential applicants.
4. To facilitate this process, we ask that AusPost provide the basic break-even metrics that would be applicable to the Mount Molloy CPA. This gives alternative proponents a clear target for achieving long term viability. It also forms the basis of supporting AusPost's rationale for whatever its final decision will be.

5. We ask that AusPost also include the detail of arrangements for any assets or allowances that could form part of the CPA package. For example, how will the boxes and other AusPost infrastructure be capitalised?
6. Can I clarify a remark you made that suggested a standalone CPA in Mount Molloy has been judged as unviable? To be specific, can I ask you to confirm if AusPost have made a *formal evaluation* of the Mount Molloy postal opportunity and determined that a stand-alone CPA **cannot** be financially viable? If this is the case, can we request that the business viability calculations be provided to JAMARR for public inspection? Note that we are not requesting any confidential details related to the existing CPA.

The points above are clearly aimed at opening up a more constructive process between AusPost and the community of Mount Molloy and Julatten.

If this process results in the conclusion that there is no financially viable alternative to the Top Shop/PO combination currently proposed, then we will end up back where we are now. However, the community will at least be part of that journey in a respectful, fair, and transparent way.

As I pointed out, AusPost has plenty to gain by taking this route. In the first instance, you will be putting real action under AusPosts' corporate charter and its commitment to community well-being. Secondly, you may actually uncover a much better option or two than the current proposal. And those options will only come to light if AusPost fairly engages with the marketplace of ideas and opportunity here in our region.

I look forward to hearing from you and discussing this application further.

Yours faithfully,



John Brisbin, Secretary

cc:

JAMARR Executive Committee

(Gerda Domen, President; Rupert Russell Vice President; TJ McCaldin, Treasurer)

Julatten Initiative Group (Tan Dickson)

Cr Nipper Brown, Mareeba Shire Council

Shane McElligott, National Hotel