



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Main Committee**

**STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS**

**Moncrieff Electorate: Postal Services**

**SPEECH**

**Wednesday, 7 December 2005**

BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## SPEECH

<b>Date</b> Wednesday, 7 December 2005	<b>Source</b> House
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<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Responder</b>
<b>Speaker</b> Ciobo, Steven, MP	<b>Question No.</b>

**Mr CIOBO** (Moncrieff) (9.45 am)—As I have outlined to the House on many occasions, the Gold Coast is the fastest growing city in Australia today. It is now Australia's sixth largest city and we anticipate that, in the coming years, Queensland will become the second most populous state in Australia. It is for that reason and the rapid pace of growth on the Gold Coast that I today highlight a petition that has already been tabled with the House for a new post office at Worongary Village Shopping Centre. The Director of AHC Ltd, Mr Wayne Lester, came to meet me several months ago to talk about the need that he felt existed for a post office serving the suburbs of Worongary, Tallai and Merrimac. I am very supportive of the bid that Worongary Village Shopping Centre has put forward for a new post office.

I wrote to Australia Post requesting the installation of a licensed post office. Australia Post indicated in their reply that, in determining whether or not to install a licensed post office operation, they would take into account several factors: the actual anticipated levels of usage of an LPO—a licensed post office; the location of other postal facilities relative to the site where it is proposed that the LPO will go; and the rate of growth for a particular area. I believe that Worongary Village Shopping Centre satisfies the threshold criteria on two of those counts—the location of other postal facilities and the rate of growth for the particular area. There can be no doubt that the Gold Coast is growing rapidly and, with it, suburbs like Worongary, Tallai and Merrimac.

What is also clear is that Australia Post has a duty to a prospective purchaser to ensure that actual and anticipated levels of usage warrant the installation of a very expensive, high capital cost, licensed post office. Because of the duty of care that Australia Post must have towards those who would seek to operate and purchase a licensed post office, it is understandable that Australia Post requires that there be an adequate level of anticipated usage for the post office to be justified. Although we are not currently at that position, I am certain that over the coming years we will reach that threshold and a new licensed post office will be able to be installed at Worongary Village Shopping Centre.

This is something I believe the residents need, it is something I clearly understand residents are calling for and it is something I completely and totally support. I pledge to work closely with Wayne until we have the installation of a licensed post office. I strongly support this petition of 2,883 signatures. I congratulate the residents of Worongary, Tallai and Merrimac on getting behind this project. I will work closely with them, and I intend to continue to bring to the attention of Australia Post the important need for a new LPO at Worongary.