

6000 survey forms to arrive in Goolwa & District

Goolwa, Monday, 11 January 2010:

Thousands of survey forms calling on your support for a **Community Bank**[®] branch in Goolwa & District will start to arrive in letter boxes from Monday 18 January.

After raising more than \$700,000 in pledges of support, the Goolwa & District **Community Bank**[®] Steering Committee has embarked on the next stage of its campaign, a feasibility study.

Steering Committee Chairman Carol Gaston AM said 6,000 survey forms would be mailed to local residents, traders and business people calling for their banking support of the **Community Bank**[®] branch proposed for Goolwa.

"It is quite clear that we have more than 250 people who would be willing to become shareholders in this public venture," Ms Gaston said. "But we also need to determine the level of banking business local people would be prepared to bring across to a **Community Bank**[®] branch in Goolwa.

"This entire campaign to date has been based on community spirit - we now have to determine whether a **Community Bank**[®] branch for Goolwa is a commercial reality.

"This survey will provide us with the answers that we require to make a decision to proceed to a public share offer – it is a very important aspect of our campaign."

The feasibility survey results are confidential, neither Bendigo Bank nor members of the committee will have access to individual survey forms. An independent consultant has been appointed to undertake the review and will present its findings to the committee and Bendigo Bank once the review is complete.

Survey forms will start to arrive in letter boxed throughout the Goolwa, Middleton & Currency Creek areas in coming weeks. "It's important that as soon as you receive your survey form, you fill it in," Ms Gaston said.

"We are all guilty of receiving these documents in the mail and putting them aside to complete at a later date, more often than not forgetting about them and missing the deadline. I can't stress how important it is for as many people as possible to indicate what level of banking business they would be prepared to bring to a new bank branch."

Face-to-face discussions will also be conducted by the consultant and Bendigo Bank representatives on the 4th & 5th Feb in Goolwa, with a mix of local residents, traders and business people required to take part in this aspect of the survey. If anyone would like to be part of the discussions they can ring Rosemary Sage on 0408 308 220 to make a time.

In the meantime, the committee is still accepting pledges of support, forms can be collected from South Coast Marine, Goolwa Library, Goolwa Video and Caffè De Carlo. Pledgees get first option on share purchase.

"During this entire process we require the community's support. Please don't stop at pledging your support but take part in these other aspects of our campaign as we continue to work towards Goolwa & District **Community Bank**[®] Branch," Ms Gaston said.

Media enquiries: Carol Gaston AM 0418 809 740