

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

28/4/2014

**Draft Corporations Legislation Amendment (Deregulatory and
Other Measures) Bill 2014**

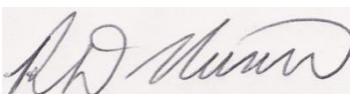
The purpose of this submission is to suggest another small but important common sense amendment that in my opinion should be added to the legislation amendment bill to improve the operations of corporations law.

It concerns section 250RA of the Corporations Act which requires an auditor to attend, or be represented by a member of the audit team, at the AGM of a listed company.

The amendment requested is that where the Board of Directors and the Auditor both agree that when the circumstances are appropriate for a particular AGM, then such representation can be via electronic means e.g conference telephone or video link and not physical presence.

Our circumstances are as follows:-

- *We operate a Community Bank in Sarina North Queensland under a franchise agreement and 80% of our profits are returned to the local community.
- *The Board of Directors are voluntary and we are a listed public company on a secondary stock exchange the NSX with around 410 shareholders.
- *Despite our small size we are subject to the same rules as large corporations.
- *Our Auditor comes from Bendigo Victoria and must travel to Sarina (North Queensland) on the day of the AGM.
- *This is obviously onerous travel to attend and return to Melbourne then Bendigo.
- *It represents a considerable cost to the company as part of the requirement of being listed.
- *It severely constrains when we can conduct an AGM as we have to allow for such travel availability.
- *Since trading of the company commenced June 1995 there has never been one single question raised with the Auditor at an AGM or in writing to him before the AGM.
- *Typically up to 15 shareholders on average might attend the AGM which might last say 30 minutes.
- *Even if we where to change Auditors it would not solve the problem as no suitable Auditor for a listed public company exists in our region and in fact the closest public company auditor would be in Brisbane 1200 kilometres away.
- *It is an unreasonable cost impost on what is in reality a small business that primarily exists for the benefit of the local community.
- *The same problem probably impacts most community banks listed on the NSX.



Rodney Nunn
Director/Treasurer - Sarina and District Community Financial Services Limited
1 Lando Avenue
Sarina Qld 4737
rodnunn@iprimus.com.au phone 0415488964

Sarina and District Community Financial Services Ltd ABN 28 112 407 182
Franchisee of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879
37 Broad Street, Sarina QLD 4737 Phone 07 4943 2634 Fax 07 4943 2637