

Submission  
No 106

**THE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE NSW  
AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Name: Suppressed  
Date received: 25/06/2008

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Partially Confidential

To whom it may concern,

In response to the request for submissions into the inquiry into the Ambulance Service of NSW I provide the following concerns that I have regarding management in the Hunter Sector.

My first concern is the lack of appropriate resources in the Inner Hunter Sector.

Tanilba Bay station was established in 2001 to provide coverage to the Tilligerry Peninsula. This station was the result of a community initiative that funded the land acquisition and station construction. The expectation from the community is such that the ambulance is used to provide emergency medical assistance to the residence on the Tilligerry Peninsula. Previously residents would wait up to 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive, either from Nelson Bay, Stockton, Raymond Terrace or Newcastle.

Within months of the station opening, a trend began to develop whereby the Tanilba Bay ambulance was utilised to cover or stand by at other areas in the Hunter, either Nelson Bay or Newcastle which meant that the Tilligerry Peninsula was once again waiting up to 30 minutes for an ambulance to arrive. Despite numerous requests from the community to cease this practice, Hunter Sector Management would order the Tanilba Ambulance to leave the peninsula and undertake duties in other areas. The morale of the story is a continuous lack of resources and inadequate staffing, which is compounded at night when there are only minimum crew levels in operation. There is currently a dispute in arbitration regarding the issue of staffing for the Nelson Bay station. Hopefully this account might give additional support to the cause.

I am happy to discuss these issues in detail if necessary.

Regards