

**REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INQUIRY INTO THE
MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE AMBULANCE
SERVICE OF NSW**

Name: Mrs Elaine Singleton

Date received: 20/01/2010

18th January 2010

Dear Ms Parker

Inquiry Recommendation 37 - 24/7 Ambulance at Bundeena
Submission No. 80

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

Disgracefully, only the uproar from loss of life will force the crisis-driven State Government to provide a 24/7 ambulance service here. Since the submission, National Parks have stated that visitor numbers to the RNP have doubled due to new RTA road signs on the Princes Highway, directing traffic onto hazardous RNP roads along the "Grand Pacific Drive", thus exacerbating the problem.

Subsequent to the submission, residents have met with Nathan Rees, John DellaBosca, Paul McLeay, Professor Debra Picone, Terry Clout, Greg Rochford, and Jeff Gilchrist. All declined to see at first hand the key access problem and experience the slow 22km journey through the RNP to Bundeena/Mainabar. The response is that the low incidence of critical "000" calls does not justify a 24/7 service. This is despite the suggestion of sharing premises with the Fire Service and being staffed mainly by local off-shift officers. Pleas have been made through the media and to the Shire Mayor and Councillors and opposition Health Minister and MP's.

Currently the excellent local doctor works 36 hours. There is no out-of-hours emergency medical service locally. Heroic local Officers continue to offer a voluntary off-duty ambulance service. Two further local Officer applicants have been told by ASNSW that they are not required - not to increase ambulance availability nor to ease fatigue and stress on their colleagues.

To determine the facts, residents asked ASNSW to provide details of local ambulance officer cover within HSAW requirements. A large fee under the FOI Act was requested. Can the inquiry supenoea this? Indeed, is the whole matter within the jurisdiction of an ombudsman - a failure of duty of care by the State?

You must be saddened by the frustration of making recommendations to a cash-strapped, crisis-driven Government that eats its own and whose transient Ministers and MPs are hesitant to plan their own future, let alone that of the electorate. One elected and two unelected Premiers in one term. Lets hope the governing process is only temporarily unavailable. There is a chink of light. The new Premier, as a relative outsider, with no baggage, no fealty and less politics may at last effect change.

Regretfully, our two families are moving out of the area, anything further can be directed to Dr Tamsin Clarke, Bundeena Ambulance Action Group.

Thank you for your kind concern.

Yours sincerely



Elaine Singleton