

Submission  
No 17

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

Name: Suppressed

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Partially Confidential

General Purpose Standing Committee No.2  
Inquiry into the Management and Operations of the  
Ambulance Service of NSW

To the Director, General Purpose Standing Committee No.2,  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

In this day and age it is incredible to think that a state government department like the Ambulance Service of NSW is duplicating services already performed by other government departments. This is the case when it comes to the delivery of general and specialist land rescue services in NSW.

The main mission of the Ambulance Service of NSW is to provide high quality clinical care, pre-hospital emergency patient care and health-related transport services. The use of paramedics to cut people out of motor vehicle accidents appears to pull paramedics away from providing these core services as rescue is a mechanical skill not a medical one.

Through out NSW other emergency services help provide both general land based and specialist rescue services. If we look at Metropolitan Sydney we can see that apart from one Police Rescue unit and five Ambulance Rescue units the rest of the rescue services are provided by the NSW Fire Brigades. The NSW Fire Brigades delivers primary rescue services in Sydney Metropolitan to areas encompassing Burwood, Liverpool, Eastwood, Dunheved, Blacktown, Castle Hill, Berowra, Crows Nest, Hurstville, Macquarie Fields, Narrabeen and most recently added Engadine.

If Ambulance Paramedics are able to concentrate on their core roles and not duplicated services that could easily be supplied by the NSW Fire Brigades, the general public would have a more efficient and quicker Ambulance Service. Rescue services currently provided by Ambulance Service of NSW could easily be absorbed by the NSW Fire Brigades due to their overwhelming level of equipment, purpose built rescue vehicles, and dedicated rescue training delivered to all firefighters (even recruit firefighters received fundamental rescue training).

If we look at the most recent history of general land rescue in NSW we can see that the NSW Fire Brigades have been able to easily absorb other rescue services areas into their own with the creation of new primary rescue units at Toronto, Belmont, Bulli and Dunheved. One of the most important aspects for the general public is that the NSW Fire Brigades has a quicker response time to rescue incidents than the Ambulance Service of NSW, due to their 'guarantee of service'.

The Ambulance Service's withdrawal of their primary rescue services would enable more Paramedics to be available for their core responsibilities thus improving

response times of the Ambulance Service of NSW, especially in areas of Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong and the Central Coast where there has been numerous documented poor response.

The withdrawal of The Ambulance Service of NSW from general and specialist land based rescue is the most logical and cost effective result that could come from this inquiry.

Sincerely,

9<sup>th</sup> June 2008.