



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Our ref P18/704

Dear Ms Minnican

Petition – Calling for the establishment of a stand alone ambulance service for Tocomwal

I refer to the petition lodged by Mr Austin Evans MP, Member for Murray, on behalf of residents of Tocomwal requesting the establishment of an ambulance service at Tocomwal.

I acknowledge the concern of the signatories for the health of their community, and welcome the opportunity to provide information on the importance of quality ambulance services.

Mr Dominic Morgan, Chief Executive, NSW Ambulance, advises that NSW Ambulance monitors changes in demographics and population growth when planning service provision to prioritise the establishment of new services. While the size of a town and its growth are taken into consideration, proximity to existing services and general ambulance coverage are also significant factors in the planning process.

In addition, the establishment of stations in locations with sufficient demand is a significant factor for ensuring the quality and safety of ambulance services as the level of demand ensures that paramedics have sufficient patients to maintain their practice skills safely.

In Tocomwal, the NSW Ambulance Community First Responder (CFR) program operates in partnership with Fire and Rescue NSW, which is supported by the nearby ambulance stations at Finley and Berrigan. Community First Responders are dispatched to an emergency by NSW Ambulance to provide urgent first aid prior to the arrival of paramedics.

An ambulance will be present at Tocomwal during the days of the Strawberry Fields Festival and an extension of this arrangement will be explored for other periods of predictable high demand.

NSW Ambulance will continue to monitor the need for a station at Tocomwal, and the capacity of the CFR unit.

I acknowledge the residents of Tocomwal taking the time to register their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Brad Hazzard MP

15 NOV 2018

