



9 June 2022

Our Ref: HD5024

The Hon Bronnie Taylor MLC
Minister for Regional Health
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Minister,

I wish to draw your attention to the needs of the residents of Tocumwal and Moama for the establishment of a stand-alone ambulance service within their respective towns.

It is time to take the safety and health needs of these towns seriously. Since 2001 the populations of both Tocumwal and Moama have seen a continual and steady rise in comparison to nearby townships, which are serviced with an ambulance station.

While I understand that population growth is not the only important consideration in the allocation of new ambulance stations, the current service models for both townships are unfeasible for current forecasts. Additionally, being situated on the Murray River, both townships regularly see a significant influx of tourists during summer, putting even more pressure on already strained ambulance services.

Tocumwal is currently utilising Community First Responders (CFR) to service the health needs of the community, and while I support the amazing work that CFR volunteers undertake, they are not paramedics. The reliance on volunteers to perform such tasks until the arrival of an ambulance from a 'nearby' town is not a long-term solution.

The town of Moama being entirely dependent on Victorian ambulance services is unsustainable given the diminishing resources of Echuca's ambulance service. As seen during last years border closures, dependence on a separate state to provide equitable healthcare to NSW residents is untenable.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you in detail at your earliest convenience to ensure the people of Tocumwal and Moama have access to equitable ambulance services.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Dalton MP



Helen Dalton MP
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR MURRAY



Member for Murray