



Office of the Mayor

Ref: KE:2324/32

26 September 2023

The Honourable Ryan Park MP
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Via Email: keira@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear The Hon Mr Park MP

MEETING FOLLOW UP 17 AUGUST

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to meet with you and senior representatives from the NSW Ambulance Service on 17 August 2023.

Since that meeting, I have been elected Mayor of the Berrigan Shire and it is for that reason I write to you instead of Cr Matthew Hannan.

At the meeting on 17 August 2023 we discussed the need for an ambulance station in Tocumwal. We noted that a previous review was undertaken in 2020 which resulted in a report to former Minister Hazzard. The report indicated that further reviews of the need for an ambulance station in Tocumwal would be conducted annually. We are not, however, privy to any such reviews and asked you to consider undertaking a new review, particularly given the significantly changed circumstances in Tocumwal relating to the ageing demographic and population growth post-pandemic.

At that meeting you undertook that the NSW Ambulance Service would investigate options for increasing its provision of services in Tocumwal and suggested implementation of a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) as a possibility.

Our CEO provided updated iD.Data to Mr Brian Jackson as agreed and following up the provision of information regarding the establishment of a CERT on 23 August 2023. No response to that email has been provided to date.

Berrigan Shire Council

 56 Chanter Street, Berrigan NSW 2172

 (03) 5888 5100  www.berriganshire.nsw.gov.au

I would appreciate your further consideration and response to the following:

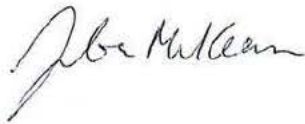
- when a new review will be undertaken of the need for an ambulance station in Tocumwal
- options for improving access to timely ambulance services in Tocumwal (for example, CERT), and
- acknowledgement that the changes in population for Tocumwal and Barooga are placing pressures on our first responders that are unsustainable in the longer term.

I believe firmly that planning for an ambulance station in Tocumwal should start now as establishment will be at least 5 years away. I am concerned if we don't start now, the lives of community members in the Berrigan Shire could be placed in real jeopardy.

At closure of the meeting I provided you a letter regarding the ineffectiveness of Murray Local Health District (MLHD) representation of the Barooga community in particular. Since that time I have been contacted by MLHD to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter. I thank you for your support in representing our concerns.

Should you require further information please contact our CEO, Karina Ewer on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]


Yours faithfully





Dr Julia Cornwell McKean GAICD
MAYOR

Encl.

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