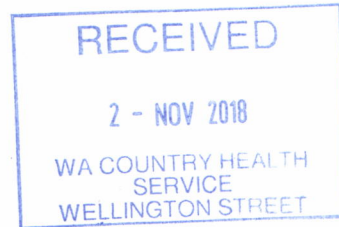


Our ref: 673  
Your ref: ED-CO-18-60079



29 October 2018

Margaret Denton  
Acting Chief Executive  
WA Country Health Service  
PO Box 6680  
EAST PERTH BUSINESS CENTRE WA 6892

SHIRE OF LAVERTON

9 MacPherson Place

PO Box 42  
Laverton WA 6440

P (08) 9031 1202 F (08) 9031 1340  
[www.laverton.wa.gov.au](http://www.laverton.wa.gov.au)

Dear Ms Denton

**COUNTRY AMBULANCE STRATEGY:  
DRAFT OPEN FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Country Ambulance Strategy.

The draft document and associated recommendations seem to cover the whole aspect of country ambulance service delivery and indeed attempt to address many issues that current ambulance administration and volunteers face.

The Shire of Laverton endorses the 19 recommendations, and in doing so would like to make the following observations:

- The Shire fully supports any strategy that can be implemented for the attraction and retention of volunteers to ensure sustainable sub-centres into the future. It is anticipated that current and future projects in Laverton for the bitumen sealing of the Great Central Road (Outback Highway), and plans for improved facilities within and / or adjacent to the townsite will have a positive affect and increase both the local population and tourist numbers, which in turn will apply additional pressure to the local sub-centre.
- Support for ongoing training needs of our volunteers is essential and an absolute necessity and always a retention issue.
- Financial sustainability is always difficult to achieve for all sub-centres across the State. All of the sub-centres have annual fixed costs for buildings, ambulances, insurance, uniforms, training etc before they do any fee paying jobs, however unfortunately in the Northern Goldfields writing off of bad debts is a common issue due to the demographic and socio economic nature of the communities. Fiscal equalisation across the State, whilst would be unpopular in some areas, is something that perhaps could be an idealistic goal.