29 October 2018

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

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 townsites 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.
From a Laverton perspective and given the project to bitumen seal the Great Central Road (Outback Highway) from Laverton to Winton, Queensland, it would be good to be able to achieve cross border collaboration / reciprocal arrangements in place for ambulance service / cover when travelling the Outback Hwy. It is anticipated that the sealing of the road will result in increased traffic movements, both light and heavy vehicles. Whilst the road when sealed may be in better condition than its current state, the increased vehicular numbers may well result in more emergency situations.

Once again thank for the opportunity to view and provide comment on the Draft Strategy and we look forward to a positive outcome for the future of the country ambulance service, both from an administration and operational perspective.

Yours sincerely

Peter Naylor
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER