



Thursday 24 November 2022

Council Concerned About Ambulance Shortage

Council is aware of community concerns about ambulances being unavailable when needed for health emergencies in Circular Head.

Circular Head Mayor Gerard Blizzard said *“Council is very concerned about the local situation and we’ve written to the premier to state this. The current situation is unacceptable and we will continue to lobby him as Minister responsible for State-wide Ambulance Services until there is positive action.*

Incidents where the wait time for an ambulance is unrealistic and dangerous or there are no ambulances available at all are becoming more and more common and this cannot be ignored.”

The Smithton Ambulance Station is classified by the Tasmanian Government as being a Single Branch Station, which means it is staffed by 1 paramedic and supported by volunteers.

“We are very grateful for the time and effort put in by local volunteers and the paramedic at Smithton Ambulance Station but Circular Head, with a population of over 8000 people, must be provided with more than a single ambulance and paramedic,” Mayor Blizzard said.

NOTE: Full-time ambulance stations have paramedics rostered on duty 24 hours per day. There are 2 full-time ambulance stations in Launceston, 9 in the south of the state and 5 in the northwest. Burnie is the closest full-time station to Circular Head and the west coast.

Authorised for general media distribution by Gerard Blizzard, Mayor, Circular Head Council

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