

**ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE - DOWNGRADE OF CONCORD
 AMBULANCE STATION**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

It is with great concern that I notify Council about a recent decision by the NSW State Government to ‘downgrade’ our local ambulance station in Concord.

I recently met with paramedics from Concord Station who expressed serious concerns, primarily about the impact of this change to response times in our Council area.

The downgrading of Concord Ambulance Station removes frontline services from our area and will result in 20 paramedics currently stationed in Concord operating out of a new ‘superstation’ in Haberfield.

At our meeting the Concord Station paramedics asked me to consider the travel time for paramedics responding to an emergency in Rhodes.

South of the Parramatta River, these changes would mean there will be no ambulance station between Haberfield and Northmead. In times of heavy traffic one could estimate that the additional travel time required for a trip from Haberfield to Rhodes, rather than Concord to Rhodes, could be up to half an hour or more.

This change puts the health of our residents, workers and visitors at risk.

The issue is further compounded by the growth expected in our area over the coming decades. The issue of infrastructure investment keeping pace with population growth in our area is one this Council has consistently raised with the State and Federal Government.

From the paramedics’ perspective the superstation model will also increase the requirement for paramedics to be driving further from and to Haberfield at the beginning and end of their shifts, adding to fatigue and reducing the likelihood that paramedics will receive their breaks during shift.

Whilst I do applaud the State Government for investing in new facilities across Sydney, such as the new station in Haberfield, it has been communicated to me that our area is far too large and densely populated for such a change not to negatively affect response times.

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RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Mayor requests the repeal of the decision to downgrade Concord Ambulance Station.

2. THAT the Mayor write to the Minister for Health and the State Member to invest in Concord Ambulance Station, bringing it to the standard of the newly announced stations in Haberfield and across Sydney to satisfy the needs of our growing population.

3. THAT Council communicate with residents the impacts of the proposed change to paramedic response times in our LGA

